

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. Jan. 1st. 1954 ⁴/₃

Dearest Mother,

New Years Day and having tidied the house etc. and put the laundry through and had lunch it seems the first important thing to do this year is to write to you and wish you a very Happy New Year. We haven't tried to telephone again as according to the newspapers the lines have been so busy but pretty soon we should figure a good time to call you, say once a month or every other week. I didn't realize that the rates had gone down so much and on Sundays it is only \$2.35 or something like that and after 6 P.M. the same. I am sure it used to be from six to nine dollars, shows how far behind the times we are. When do you think the best time would be? During the day on Sundays or after 8 your time on weekdays? you let us know. Bev says the best way is to make a list of what one wants to say and then you don't forget. I am not much good on the phone but with practise might improve!

Your letter written after Christmas morning came Wednesday and so did Mildreds wonderful one about Christmas, the mails must have been terrific for some of your letters written before came all at once, 3 one day and 2 another. Here they did better than usual and got people to mail things real early with the result the peak of the posting came on the 16th.

Have been quite gay the last couple of days. Edmee Reid gave a very nice cocktail party Thursday but we didn't want to go for all of it so had supper early and got dressed and arrived about 15 minutes before it was supposed to be over and stayed until 8 P.M. They did have sliced bread and cold meat so one could make a sandwich but we were ~~xxxx~~ glad not to be there too long. It was a fun and we knew most everyone and they all seemed in good spirits. Then last night the Grahams gave their New Year Party. They were at Edmees and insisted we go to theirs, anytime between 7.30 and 2 or 3 in the morning. They wanted the Morants too so we asked them to supper first to help eat a turkey we were cooking but they had already asked a friend so said they would come for us about 7.30 so we could go to gether and more important leave to gether. So we asked Mr Scott and the turkey turned out extra good which was nice. We had time for a big dinner and to get washed up and dressed but it was nearly nine when the Morants arrived, so people had come in then. When we got to the Grahams the party was in full swing and so noisy. Most of the guests were invited to a buffet supper and we could have stayed too but got away when they went upstairs from the play room to eat and it was ten by then, some were feeling awfully hungry and we were glad to have a big turkey inside us. Will tell you more later but are going out now before any one drops in.

Heaps of love to you all.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Jan. 4, 1954

Dearest Mother,

I can't decide which should I do ^{first} send the best of the Christmas cards or write thank you notes, so am going to dash this off to you. If it hadn't been for so much visiting between Christmas and New Years and two holidays in a row each time I might have done better. but it keeps one sort of unsettled not knowing when someone may come, we rather expect the Olivers to-day and to-morrow will try to get Eleanor Luxton and her mother over to see the paintings. Pete has started on for the museum.

Don't think I ever really thanked you for all the nice Christmas presents, such as that wonderful box of pencils, I never can find one when I want it, and the sticky stuff. Did I enclose a roll of the sticky labels in one of the parcels to you? I was going to. They are Scotch tape and in rolls but are labels to write on and so convenient and stick to anything like glass, I expect one can buy them in the states as well as here.

How wonderful to have seen the animal scroll done by the Japanese so long ago. It looks so modern in feeling but most anything like that which has been well drawn originally lives, just as things written centuries ago are often true of life to-day.

The little sewing bag will be very useful too and did I thank you for the glazed apron which looks as if it could be just wiped off with a damp cloth.

Last letter I was just telling you about the Grahams party. They are quite a family, come from Vancouver, he was married and had 4 or 5 children, and she was, with several, then they married each other and have some 14 children, ^{about} but most of them are married now. They also have heaps of money and are a little nouveau riche, (can't spell it but you know what I mean) but they aren't exactly the climbing kind but just very big hearted and generous. They have a big house in Vancouver and do a lot of entertaining, open it for all sorts of big affairs and to raise money for things and also entertain many visiting notables. They put two houses together on the Cave and Basin road and come here most every Christmas and often in the summer and fill the house with their children and friends. Then they have usually a Christmas and New Years party. This year it was just New Years. We had been asked before but never gone and as Syd Vallance said "it is an experience" It started at 7.30 with Cocktails. you could go anytime, and then about 9.30 or 10 P.M. they went upstairs for a buffet dinner of roast turkey etc. then they sat around until time to greet the New Year with Champayne. We stayed until they went up to supper

about 10 for some were slow moving from the rumpus room to the living room upstairs. But such a noise and clamor. Mrs Graham met one as they entered the room downstairs and then it was up to you to talk to ~~who~~ you liked, no one was introduced really, and there were lots of Grahams and friends we didn't know but of course we knew all the towns people and such a funny mixture in a way, but that is part of the fun. They ask whoever they know, whether at another party or in the stores and the different ones who have done things for them in the past. They are very friendly and just enjoy seeing people have a good time.

Here I am where I left off the other day and time to go for the mail, Two letters from you yesterday, one full of ones you got on your birthday, would love to have a copy of Aunt Julies poem, and what operation did Edith have? was she sick long? and where is Bob Palmer being posted.?

Heaps of love and will be writing soon.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. Jan, 7th, 1954. 15

Dearest Mother,

Two nice letters to-day from you, one written on New Years Day and the other with the poem which I better return in this, just in case I forget. Aunt Julie certainly is clever, but think I will tack on another verse before sending it back. See that it should go in a larger envelope so will post it later than this.

We were told a week ago that the C.P.R. are hoping to make their train trip faster from east to west and in order to do so have to experiment, they would like to cut off some 18 hours. They thought the experimental train would go through yesterday sometime in the late afternoon but Pearl Moore came in at tea time and Sam Ward was here making a panel so we didn't bother, but now they say it will arrive at 4.30 for 5 minutes so we may wander down and have a look. It is not official and we aren't really supposed to know about it. Would be a help if they could cut off that much on the trip from the east out here. The trains themselves are greatly improved and more comfortable.

Now that Christmas and New Years are over I can't seem to settle down to anything. Pete has been working on his Indian camp but wants to have the drawing as accurate as possible before painting it in a sketchy manner. We rather expected Luxton to come over but he hasn't appeared yet. A very little while Pete wants me to have a look at something and so I get sort of interrupted in what I am doing. I did get the rest of the cards done last week, we had only the sky printed and I painted in the rest. Then sent another 20 to people who sent to us and we didn't to them. Haven't counted how many we got this year but some sent us two, one before and one after ours arrived. I think they were all amused. and the funny part is the ones in Banff you would least expect to like them, tell us not to forget them next year and some even frame them! I thought the one Pete made especially for you was almost better than the real card. Had a letter from Dorothy Brown to-day and she wanted to know how Pete knew what his back looked like. She has been sick but is better again. They are going to sell their house, I thought because it was too large but seems they need another room and Dorothy thinks it easier to look after a house with enough rooms rather than a tiny cramped place. Do you know what Bo Amory's address is, and if she is to be in Phoenix this winter?

It was nice that Mildred could stay over New Years with you and by her letter she did enjoy it, said you had even read aloud to-gether. and it seemed quite a lot of people had called in.

She also mentioned a young girl you were helping through Cornell, is she a local girl or a foreign student ? I don't remember your mentioning her before.

This isn't much of a letter, guess I have done too many long hand letters, almost got writers cramp, but then I am apt to write too much in a letter, get going and interested and scribble along.

Time to go so all for now.

Lots of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Jan. 12, 1955

Dearest Mother,

I still have half a dozen thank-you notes to do but will dash off a bit of a letter to you first. I have been mounting some slides of the Sun Dance in the southern part of the province to help Pete with ideas of proper designs for his teepees. and it is so long since I have done any, it took a while to get set up. Have a table in the old little bedroom above the kitchen where I wrote and addressed all the Christmas cards and could leave them spread out, now I have it with the slide mounting paraphernalia and can do a bit in the evenings or whenever I like. Have a lot of kodachromes I never mounted being away both the last winters.

Have you figured when you would like us to call you on the telephone? and how often? Anytime convenient for you would be fine for us. Do you have a phone in your room now? seems to me Russ said you did. If so it might work to call before eight any evening, which would be six o'clock here or anytime on Sunday. When are you always home? One thing, when the long distance operator says "Banff Calling." you will know it is just for fun.

We had a note on a card at Christmas from Patsy Bailey. She is Mrs Charlotte Browne's granddaughter, and Rebecca Bradfords Daughter and lived in Honolulu several years. She is the one we saw last winter. Now they have moved back to New England and are living in Lexington, Mass. Her husband Dick, was brought up I think in Wayland but his mother is from Honolulu and he was there during the War and they went there to live, but have evidently decided to return to Mass. She said they hoped to get a house in Concord eventually, maybe an old one to fix over. I thought I would write her to call on you, maybe she and Dick could go over some Sunday afternoon. She is a most attractive girl and paints very well in Water color. They have one daughter, Ann, who is a dear little girl, she was very small when born and Patsy has lost two or three babies I believe. You would like Patsy I know and Dick too and who knows you might hear of a place they could get. Their address is 16 Barberry Road, Lexington, so perhaps if you were taking a little drive you could call in and see her. It was Patsy who drove Mrs Browne to your birthday party, but didn't go in as she had the little girl and they didn't think it would be a good idea. So she knows about you. It would be so nice if they could move to Concord for they are the kind who would fit in just right. They know the Castles too and though she is young they like older people too. They came to Banff on their wedding trip.

Have you called on Betty Hiam Valentine? I think from all I have heard that you two would like one another. Nell spoke as if Betty had a difficult time getting used to school in

Chestnut Hill or Windsors, for she was 10 or 12 when her mother died and the children went to live with the Websters, I don't think she is very fond of a social kind of life. She went to Mc Gill in Montreal and another girl who knew her there said she was great fun and the life of the group, she called her "a panic" the things she did. She also got a ~~pilot's~~ license to fly a plane when on the cape one summer. Perhaps she is like her mother more than her grandmother, but I would think she would enjoy a call from you.

I must return the poem Aunt Julie wrote. There are several things I should send you and will soon, but must get on with those notes before someone comes in for tea. We have someone dropping in most every day. Mr Lonsdale on Monday, the Morrants yesterday just before starting for the coast in their car. and Sunday we went to a tea at Eileen Harmons and then in the evening to the Larsons where the Morrants were too. We rather expected Mrs Vallance's sister yesterday but perhaps she will come to-day and then Mrs Simpson has gone to Calgary for an operation on her throat, a tumor on her thyroid or some such thing, don't know how serious it is.

Heaps of love and hope I can get organized soon. The weather is still nice and quite mild and it will be spring before I get going on the winter's projects.

More love

Catharine -

P.S. Pete's mother wrote us that she had such a nice letter from you. She finds it hard to write.

We got 4 letters today & 3 of them spoke of Pete's Christmas card & said they had kept them all. one from Montreal. Calgary & Mrs Solier in Concord. So guess they are appreciated by more people than one would think.

Banff, Alberta.

Friday, Jan. 14, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

When your letters come I think of several things I want to say and then when I start to write can't remember what they were.

Funny I should ask again about telephoning and that very day the letter from you saying that perhaps it is better not to. I can see how you feel and understand perfectly. After writing back and forth as we do, for nearly 25 years, we are used to communicating to one another slow post, but I expect to Russ who does most of his business by phone, it seems more natural to telephone. Anyway you know that if you want to talk to us all you have to do is put in a person to person call to Banff 140. which is under Tom Scott's name, and then one of them up there will find us. Our life is so irregular anyway that it would be hard to arrange a fixed time for us to call you, people drop in at such odd times here, and if you were expecting us to call and we couldn't phone that particular time you would wait and wait.

We were sorry that you hadn't been feeling well, this time of year is apt to be the most discouraging but soon the days will get a touch of spring to them and the snowdrops appear and then you will know winter is almost over. We had a snowy day yesterday, a very fine snow all morning and most of the afternoon, an inch or so and then towards late afternoon it came down thick and fast and we ended with 4 or 5 inches. but it cleared to a beautiful night with the stars all out. and this morning was zero and now the sun is ~~shining~~ bright, the sky so blue and everything sparkling and lovely.

Mrs Simpson was operated on yesterday ^{in Calgary} ~~for~~ on her neck and we were all concerned for with any kind of growth one thinks of cancer, especially as her sister died of cancer of the lung. Jimmie took her down and waited until everything was O.K. and from what Big Jim said this morning, Dr Jennings said there was nothing to worry about, so hope that means it is alright.

Remember you liked the little notepaper I wrote you on for your birthday I think. Find they have it here and as it's only 25¢ a package (am sure I paid more in Calgary) am sending you some to use for short notes. So much easier to write than a letter. I often wish I were like Grandpa and could write just a sentence if that was all that was needed, but of course it took so long to decipher his writing that one felt one had received a longer letter. Perhaps I can develop the habit of not being so long winded. I will also send the Scotch Tape labels. I think I didn't send them Christmas when they didn't fit into the parcels of books. I expect you can get them in Connard.

We had a notice of a sale of books in Boston and there were 3 we thought sounded interesting. the one on butterflies for Colin Wyatt, and the Korea one with woodblocks by Elizabeth Keith who I think Pete met in China or knew of years ago. and then the life of Jo Davidson the sculptor. I thought you might enjoy that last one, so had them sent to you in Concord and we can pick them up when east next time or you maybe could send them on later. All the parcels came in good shape this year. *As it was a sale, I thought it quicker & easier to send myself as it couldn't be done through another book store.*

Had company last night and a late evening, Red Cathcart who looks after Norman Luxton's museum came over to see how the paintings were coming on, and brought his wife who we had never met before. Had a very pleasant evening and they stayed until after 11, rather late for us. We are getting a bit gay, and have been asked to an "after five" party on Saturday.

Have the squirrels stopped coming to the red ~~thorn~~ by the dining room? I think you did well to find they liked the coconut and caught them. We haven't had many birds this year I think partly because it is so mild.

The museum Pete's paintings are to go into is built of log and across the river ~~from~~ behind the Indian store or Trading post belonging to Norman Luxton. They are being as careful as possible with the wiring and heat and feel that most fires are caused by the human element anyway, so it seems safe.

I do think Sam Palmer has the most original way of expressing himself. How old is he now? I forget. and what about Bob? Has he been sent anywhere special in the Army, or is it the Navy? Was glad to hear what Edith's trouble was, for I had no idea from the letters.

Was there any duty to pay on the Christmas presents we sent? one always wonders. There never is on anything you send, just once years ago there was on a big parcel. The calenders came right through, no trouble at all. I think at Christmas time they are even less strict as long as they appear to be presents.

Did I tell you a Mrs Rowland here got a Christmas card addressed to her, such and such a number "Grizzly Street, Alberta" and it was sent to Banff and of course reached her. I expect the person sorting the mail knew of Grizzly street here having been in Banff some summer. But not many times would you get a letter with only a street and state on it.

Dinner time so all for now, loads of love

Catharine
P.S. wonder did I ever thank you for the Macadamia nuts from Hawaii? They are awfully good & are of an favorites.

Banff, Alberta

Tues. Jan. 18, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Have had rather a funny time the last two days so no letters to you. Sunday was quiet enough but didn't seem to get much done. Jonny was over. We were a little tired after the two late nights Thursday and Friday and then Saturday had gone to the after five party at the Bank Managers and stayed until ~~at~~ nine. It was very nice. Sort of like a cocktail party, only no cocktails, but anything you wanted from sheery to scotch and rye. Then instead of lots of little hors d'oeuvres (can't spell it) They brought in a large platter of turkey, ham and beef all sliced and white and brown bread buttered, Then a dish of pickles, olives celery etc. One made one's own sandwiches and helped oneself and then there was tea and coffee and cake and cookies. A much more deigestible way of having a party I thought than so many of those salty and rich little things, and this way you could make your supper with a sandwich and coffee and not bother about hurrying home.

Well yesterday between helping Pete I wrote a couple of letters and went out to shop, stopped to enquire at young Jimmy Simpson's for Mrs Simpson who is still in hospital after her throat operation, and ended by having coffee with Pearl Moore and Lorna Oliver, Lari's mother. Then the Bank and it was time for lunch. Pete is just finishing the first large picture for Norman Luxton. a Sundance lodge surrounded by teepees, a nice camp scene, but he wants it to be correct. Keeps asking me to look, which I like to do, to see what I think. Just as we were having desert Verne Castella came with a sketch box he has made for us, this took a little time. Then Barbara came before we had finished the dishes, Pete beat it upstairs so I did the visiting, finished one letter while Barbara waited and we went to the post office and I left her at home. By then it was about 2.30. Had barely sat down when Mr Lonsdale arrived in between draws in the bonspiel going on this week. Pete came down to look at Mr Lonsdale's paintings and I tried to finish the business letter I was working on. Then Sam came, so I talked to him in the workshop for a bit before he went over to his shop for something and as he went out, Casey Oliver came in. He hasn't been down since last summer, so seeing that Pete was looking at the paintings with Mr Lonsdale in the kitchen I took Casey into the living room and we had a nice visit. He is an ex-mounted police and a great character, an Irishman and great fun. Mr Lonsdale couldn't stay for tea but as Sam had returned by then we had tea with Casey. He was in rare form and told us some awfully funny stories about the old days in the police and how he got out of difficult situations. About five or after we took them both home and then as the sunset was rather nice we went for a ten mile drive. But it was quite an afternoon ! We do get such a variety of people sometimes.

This morning I stayed home and got quite a few letters written, business and otherwise, ~~xxx~~ Norman Luxton came

to get the model of the room and the tiny sketches Pete made to show what the big ones would be like, wanted to take them to Calgary to show Don Harvie the son what was being done for the museum his father is so interested in.

Pete was still working this afternoon when about 3 P.M. Old Dr Atkin came to see the pictures as his daughter had told him all about them after being down the other night. Dr Atkin is retired now, but the perfect country doctor. He even looked at all the summer's sketches too and then we had tea, Were in the midst of that when Dr Robinson arrived. He has just retired too, and in the old days was the other doctor in Banff. Just he and Dr Atkins were the only doctors for years. It was funny having them both the same time, He had tea too, then Dr Atkin left and Dr Robinson who paints himself looked at the pictures. He has moved to Vancouver and is here only a few days more. but it was after five when he left.

Did I tell you I heard from Dorothy Browne, perhaps you have recently too. She was ill but better now and they are thinking of moving. She spoke as if Kate was back again with her. They have a chance to sell their house and hope to get one a better size. Will send you her letter when I have answered it.

Thanks for the Palmer boys letters, they do write in such an original way, always get a kick out of them. Looks as if Bob would stay on this side and not go to Japan. Texas should be pretty interesting.

Thats a fine idea sending me the things you want to get rid of, how about asking me first if we can use them for I might think of someone near at hand it would mean more to, and save you parceling it up ! But would like a chance at some of the things perhaps!

Don't worry we always enjoy your letters even if they sometimes come close to-gether, there never are too many.

The real reason for making the trains faster is to compete with the Airplanes. and just to-day we heard on the radio that since putting on a very fast train between Calgary and Edmonton they have doubled the passengers going by train. Many find it much easier than driving the 200 miles. and Eric Harvie told us that some of the business men who used to go by plane, find it pleasanter by train even if it does take longer. There are so many passengers on the planes that the service and comfort isn't as good as it was before either. It will make it pretty nice to cut 17 hours off the 3 days and 4 nights to the coast from Montreal. nearly a whole day shorter.

I was interested in hearing about the Woodruff girl, Nice that you could help her, it really is about the best way to help people, to give them a better education and when they are really bright like this girl it is 10 times better.

Another idea, why not have an extension to the phone put up into the little room upstairs so you don't have to come down when designing, or how about putting your desk into Russell's old room and work there.

The Card of Pete's with me at the back door with a tray feeding the animals was an old Christmas card. We colored it then but later had some printed just in black and white to use for notes. Sent it to you with the pictures of the Campbells as it was stiff.

Did I tell you that the ranchers at Cowley worked all fall on a Bret Hart play called ~~M2~~ "M'liss"? Eleanor was the heroine and Gray the Villian, Ralph filling the hero and Ethel in it too. It was hard for them as they rehearsed three nights a week and did all the work on the ranch too, getting up at 5 as usual and got pretty tired. John McGilp coached the play, he is the Scotch school teacher at Tanner school, and they put it on just ~~near~~ before Christmas in Cowley. El got flu the very day and could hardly stand up but somehow got through her part and it went well. They were asked to put it on again after Christmas at Pincher Creek, and the place was so crowded they turned 50 people away. and now we read that they are to give it somewhere near Lethbridge.

Must go to bed now. Heaps of love,

Catherine .

Thanks for the relations children's photographs
+ other enclosures. I don't wonder you don't think
much of the modern Christmas cards. We had
some lovely ones.

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Jan. 25, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Robbie Burns birthday so we are being told on the radio. Have slipped a bit in writing you but last week we seemed to have company every afternoon with a sort of climax on Saturday morning. It was really funny, for most of them came to see the paintings Pete is doing for the Museum. He has really finished one.

Can't remember when I last wrote, and do let us know how Bo is getting on? and how serious it is? for quite a lot of cancer operations are successful if they get it in time.

Guess I will have to refer to my diary to see who came when last week, to show how it went. Monday Mr Lonsdale always comes with the pictures he has been working on during the week and Casey Oliver came too that day and Sam, then Tuesday we had both Dr Atkin and Dr Robinson, and Wednesday Jimmy Simpson and Pearl Moore, both early so ~~it~~ they didn't stay for tea, However as Sam came during lunch and Verne after and then Jim and Pearl, it kept us busy and we went for a drive afterwards to get a breather.

We have been considering building a new group of stores on what we call the Burns lot at the corner next the White store. The Evans who ran the meat market decided it was too hard work and after much talk decided to sell out to Jock McCowan who runs the grocery side of the store next Jackie's drygoods. About the same time George Noble who runs the photographic store had to decide where to go as his store he has been in over 20 years was sold, and everyone got the idea we would build a new building with several stores around the corner as there was plenty of room. So we talked it over Wednesday afternoon, out driving and thought if George would take the corner store as ~~12, 90~~ would be much better for us and save a lot of planning and what not at this time. So Thursday when Sam came down we spoke to him and he was thinking the same way and then to Eddon who came over in the afternoon, he runs the buildings for us and he too thinks it a poor time to build so said he would speak to George, so we got that all figured out last week and George who is getting old is pleased not to have to invest too much and it looks better for everyone.

Thursday Lorna Oliver and Lari Simpson and little David came for tea as we had asked them, and then Friday the Walter Phillips came for tea and we took them a ride out the west road afterwards. Mr Phillips was anxious to see what Pete was doing.

Then Saturday was the funniest. It was Pete's birthday and we are both crazy about the book of Max. Isn't it the cleverest, the way it is drawn and not a word of caption, the animal speaks for itself. We have always liked the ones in Punch Magazine but there are only a few in that. Pete was awfully pleased.

X I was busy doing my weekly running round with the vacuum when Barbara came to tell us Pearl Moore would be down at 10.30 with some people from the hotel. It turned out to be Don Harvie, the son of Eric Harvie who is the one buying the paintings for the museum. His wife, another young couple named Leach and their children who luckily played with Sads outside, for Pearl thought they would be into everything. The four young couples went up to see the painting in the studio with Pete and Pearl and I started to visit. We heard a knock on the door but thought it was the children so paid no attention until it knocked again and it was Colin Wyatt. So he came in with us to talk and a great help having Pearl to chat with him for before long Sid Vallance came about some photographs Pete has promised to help with, so he didn't stay long, did stop to talk a bit with Colin and Pearl but wouldn't stay for coffee which I was making. He had to pick up his car and came back later, had forgotten to give us some Marmalade his wife had made for us. One husband went out to keep the children contented and then the others took a hurried look at the pictures in the front room and had coffee and Pearl had left by then. Soon they went, very enthusiastic about the Indian paintings but Colin stayed.

It was sort of a let down in a way for he came to tell us that he and Elsa were busting up. We felt there was something wrong for quite a while. She is South American and rather fiery and he is English and impulsive. At first he thought it might be because of the new baby that she was changed but evidently it goes back further than that. He was very good about it but said he felt he would blow up if he had no one to talk to and let off steam. It was 12.30 when we left and we dashed over town for a few things and right after lunch Gotki came to see about another duct for heat into the living room. Then later when we did go over town we met Dr Riley and he said they were down to see us but saw another car and figured we had company! It was quite a day. and in the evening we went to a hockey game, just two periods. So stopped in to see Mrs Simpson who came back Friday.

Sunday we were busy taking a picture of the painting and then ran up to see Sid Vallance and he was busy making a recording while Doris was at church so said to come back for tea, which we did and spent sometime talking about his dark room and photographs first. It was about 4.15 when we came home as they were going to a cocktail party and as we came into the drive, Jackie and Florence were coming out. So back they came and stayed until 5.30 or six. It was rather tiring as Jackie talks a lot, is evidently trying to be nice for he got Florence to make Pete a great enormous birthday cake and this was sort of a call for Pete's birthday. The store business which Pete has nothing to do with, is not going too well, and that is a bit of a worry, we hope it will straighten itself out before long. So you see we had a busy week.

X Pete is working now on one of the smaller paintings to go along the side of the room. He is going to have two going at once. One a scene of the Indians putting up a row of teepees, each one in a different stage of erection and then the other a scene at night with the lights of the fires glowing in the teepees.

I must go now and get the bread, unless one is early at the store they are all sold for they only make a few of the kind we like best.

Loads of love

P.S . I sent the note paper you liked and the stickers and pretended

it was for your birthday. But's why I wished you a happy Jan 30th.

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Jan. 28, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

It looks as if I might get a chance to write you some sort of letter to-night. Jonny has just come with the dog Tuppy, and Pete is resting his eyes as he was painting all the morning and the radio has a Pop Concert going on, so between the dog sniffing my legs and Jonny wanting me to look at the things in the magazine he is perusing, I may find it hard concentrating, but might manage this letter to you.

We have had the loveliest weather, just like spring yesterday, clear blue sky a warm enough sun to melt ^{snow} and it even felt like it. Was 48° in Calgary to-day, warmer than Vancouver. and in Saskatchewan just east of us it is way below zero, somehow the cold air has missed us all during this last month but guess we can still expect some winter.

Have had quite a bit of company, in fact the last two weeks someone each afternoon. Wednesday it was so mild we moved in the other large easel from the garage and re-arranged things out there a bit, usually it would be too cold to monkey round out there, then Peggy Roosser and little David came to bring us a roast of moose and a wonderful steak too. We have been living on moose ever since, rather fun and tastes awfully good. They stayed for about an hour and we had tea, then Sam came as well.

Yesterday I tried to finish my Christmas thank-you notes and Pete was working on the picture of setting up the teepees when about 11.15 Colin Wyatt dropped in. asked if we were busy and knowing he was feeling badly, said come in. I looked after him and put in another sweet potatoe to bake and the moose came in very handy, he had never tasted it before. He and Elsa are seperating. Maybe I told you, he very impetuous and she fiery and we think they have both said things. there are undoubtedly faults on both sides but as they never did seem too well suited to one another we aren't trying to help patch things up, just listen when Colin needs to let off steam. Verne came after lunch as he was making us sketch boxes just as we want them. It was such a perfect day we decided to go for the mail and errands and Colin left to walk home. Then on the main street as so often happens we did a lot of business. Sid Vallance and Mr Lonsdale both stopped to talk to Pete while I shopped. Then Pearl and Mrs Painter came along saying they had just been at our house, so of course we said to come back which they did and made quite a call and also looked at the paintings. It is rather nice the interest people are taking in them. We had tea with them too and then about 4 o'clock as the light was so nice on the mountains decided to take a ride and Pete drove half the way. first time he has driven as much, I do all the ~~cleanup~~ ^{house} ~~have done for over~~ a year or a half. he is afraid he can see bumps on the road quick enough.

To-day I did write a couple of letters and Pete painted this morning, then about 4 this afternoon the Valances came for tea as Doris wanted to look at the paintings too, and also did other things. Remember the man who went east to be operated on for Cancer of the throat, Cob arranged it. they had given up hope for him in Calgary and Pat Gostigan thought they might do a certain operation on him that had been performed just a few times in Boston. So he was flown east. You sent him flowers for us and he had never seen any as lovely. Well ever since he has been working in his barber shop, and that must have been 5 years ago, but lately has had trouble with the tube in his throat and isn't expected to live very long. He certainly has done well.

Did Jean Lindsay send you the enclosed letter at Christmas? Thought it rather interesting. Ebbs would be interested if he didn't get one, so let him read it before sending it back. Cousin Bert might find it interesting too *as he was born near Newhall.*
not far away.

Saturday, Time to go for the mail and a food sale where one can get wonderful cakes as a rule.

Your letter of Jan 24th. just came. I like your Mt. Desert Island paper, will do fine for us. Glad you like the paper I sent, the flowers are well done I think and it is well printed. Did you get the "write on labels" in the same box? I find them very useful and am sure you can get them in Concord.

Last letter from Dorothy Brown said she had been ill before Christmas so wrote few cards and no notes to speak of, but is fine now.

What a wonderful job Bob Palmer must have, am so glad for him. That must have been quite a lunch party *last night* lasting until supper time. Sounds quite an undertaking. Didn't realize Cal and Sted had an apartment in Boston, nice for a change and so they can take in concerts and plays etc. Wonder if Cal is taking ceramics.

Couldn't you ask Madie or Alice Keyes about Bo and what the trouble was, or maybe Russ could find out from Jack Emory, it might be that they found the trouble in time and naturally wouldn't say much about it. Do hope she will be alright. Russ did mention in a letter last fall that Cal and I think Sted were in Phoenix, *Arizona* looking for a house Bo could rent for the winter ~~and~~ as the climate agreed with Bo. Either sinus trouble or asthma, I forget which.

Well all for now. My desk still looks a mess and I have to figure out our Income tax stuff soon.

More love,

Catherine

P.S. Everyone who comes in is crazy about Max. It is so clever and the expression on his face just wonderful.

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Feb. 1, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

February has started off as mild as most of January was. and in to-nights paper it mentioned someone seeing a bluebird near Calgary. We saw Crows on Sunday when we took a drive up the west road and I think usually when we see them we think it a sign of spring, but quite often it can do as it did last year and be real severe in February and March.

Pete has had a cold the last few days, caught it I think from Norman Luxton, a germ going the rounds, so he has gone easy the last few days. Not much company luckily, Sunday just Lynnle and Christine came in the afternoon. they had been busy doing ice sculpture on the main street. The Carnival committee put up big blocks of ice, several blocks high and the kids are awfully clever carving animals, It's not easy as they have to chip away the ice, but they are just as good as the Eskimos I think. Lynnle and Christine are doing a rabbit with it's ears lying on it's back not sticking up. There is a lovely beaver knawing a tree and standing on it's hind feet, or sitting. It is cut away between the stump and the animal and was clear ice when I caught a glimpse of it, It is covered with cardboard to keep the sun off just now.

Yesterday Pete painted all morning and I did Income Tax figures. Always takes time to hunt up the information and to be sure it is correct. Mr Lonsdale came in the afternoon a bit later than usual, about four. He is painting very well and has improved so much. We noticed when we went for the mail that a big grader plowing tracks for the Carnival racing on the river, had broken through and only the cab of the big machine ~~and~~ was sticking out of the water and the very front part seemed to be still up on the ice. Seems it hit an Air pocket or hole and just settled into the river, the driver just getting out in time. We had heard machines working away but never thought much about it. They had two big tractors trying to pull it from the opposite shore and it never budged. Looked hopeless when we came by. At five after Mr Lonsdale left we went for another look, they were putting in small charges of dynamite to blow the ice on either side of the grader, then after the 3 or 4 explosions the two tractors would pull and you could see them move the thing a few feet ahead, then they set more charges off, and again pulled it. They had done it for a couple of hours at it was a slow job and then about six on the last pull it was near enough shore to come up onto the ice. Before that it would come forward just so far and jam under the heavy ice. We thought they did well to get it out at all. *It is a tremendous big machine.*

Pete started a letter to you this morning but first Sam came and then Verne with some sketch boxes he is making us, he had to return after lunch ~~for~~ to put on the handles and catches. We were out too seeing about things. and now it is nearly bedtime and I am afraid this is a very stupid letter. To-morrow I have to go to the dentist, should have gone before but it is so easy to put off. Hope I don't have to go too often.

Am glad the books arrived. Wouldn't Mrs Hudsbeth enjoy reading the Jo Davidson one before you send it to us. The one on Korea is illustrated by a girl who used to do many wood blocks of China. Think Pete met her there. *Maybe they are sold out of the Audubon one of butterflies.*

Could you get us another book to add to our collection of Architectural ones. it is called "The Natural House" by Frank Lloyd Wright and it will be good and expensive \$6.50 It is apt to be very modern for your tastes but some original ideas. He is the leading U.S. architect I guess.

Thanks for Stephen Hupertz pictures of you and Cousin Alma, I think the one of the Colonial Inn is the best. We too got a card from Louise Newbury, they must have had a wonderful trip. I thought the Chambers cards very lovely, wonder do they make them in some way or have them specially printed. and "Peter" was good at the Old North Church. *the cat one.*

Lots of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Mon. Feb. 7, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Don't think I have done too well writing you lately but then you have gotten a letter from Pete ! We have both had the bold or flu bug that has been going the rounds, one is bound to get it sooner or later and Pete's was worst last weekend and mine this. However I am feeling much better to-day so thought as something pleasant to do would write you.

Pete has been painting each day on his pictures for the museum, it is slow work but they are coming on well. He has finished one large one and has three others under way. I have been trying to get caught up on letters and have most of them finished and as it is snowing gently to-day may get some more done this afternoon.

Wednesday I went to the dentist for the first time in quite a while, had one tooth filled and one more to be done which is not bad. We have a young very gentle dentist here who fills our teeth but for a good cleaning we go to an elderly man in Calgary but he can't be bothered filling them unless they are big holes. Then there was banking business etc. In the afternoon after tea time Pearl Moore and the Walter Painters came down to see the pictures, Mr Painter hadn't seen them and he stayed up stairs talking to Pete while we chatted downstairs. Mr Painter is very interesting when you can really talk like that and told Pete all sorts of things, the old plans he had for the bridge in Banff and ~~xxxx~~ his plans for a park etc. and these would have been carried out if the government hadn't changed about then. That evening Colin Wyatt dropped in and we had a nice visit and luckily he left at 9.30 as he goes to bed early too. He will be leaving for good next week, awfully sad and we can't quite make it all out, but seems Elsa has made it impossible for him ever since just before the baby was born but there are always faults on both sides. We talked of other things, he gets sort of down and there aren't many houses he can go to. ~~xxxxxx~~ Is having the packers come for his things this week and then will stay with his lawyer who is an English friend for a couple of weeks in Calgary.

Thursday I was busy packing a couple of boxes of old clothes to send to the Campbells, things they can use on the ranch. and then that evening Pearl Moore brought Doug Haynes one of the top C.P.R. men down, he hasn't been here for a long time but is an old friend and interested to see what Pete is going. I think they are all pleased to see what a comeback Pete has made after the trouble he has had with his eyes and all. We had a nice visit with them.

Friday I don't think any one came though we saw a

couple of people over town. We are rather worried about the Dave White and Co. business as Jackie has stayed home too much of the time and left the running of it to his second wife and her family, who aren't too well liked and they have lost most of the old steady customers, we wonder how they are paying the staff with the amount of business they do and whether they can keep going, so there has been a lot of talk on that subject. We call our Jeep our office for so many people come while I shop and sit in the Jeep to discuss things with Pete as the bank manager did on Friday. We also were checking up on how the corner building is coming along.

Saturday was our busy day and I guess didn't help me get rid of my cold. Pete was painting in the morning when Eldon came about the leases etc. then at 11 A.M. was Ted Langridges funeral and Pete wanted to go to the cemetery, I sat in the car thinking that standing outside wouldn't help a cold. Then the shopping and just after we got home and were starting lunch Franklin Arbuckle who is one of the best artists and illustrators in Canada and lives in Montreal came with Ralph Allen the Editor of McLeans magazine, which we consider the top magazine in Canada. something like the Saturday evening post but not as much fiction. We sent it to the Newburys for Christmas. They wanted us to have lunch with them but we had another funeral to go to in the afternoon and suggested seeing they had several things they wanted to do that they take their drive to Lake Louise, it was a lovely day, and come back in the evening, they didn't want a late night so we said 7.30 or 8 o'clock would be fine. Off they went, we had lunch and then went to Jim Baptie's funeral. He was a distant cousin of Pete's and he thought he should sort of represent the family. As he says, they may not notice you are there but if you aren't there they realize it. Again I sat in the car and it was a big funeral though not as long as the one in the morning which was a Masonic one. There were lots of people over town, a lovely day and mild. We finally got home about five and thought we would have a quiet time before supper and Colin dropped in again. However we just talked about skiing and he didn't stay too long, we didn't want to ask him for supper with the others coming, it would have made too much of an evening.

Colin didn't go until after 6.30 so we were just getting a quick supper when Ted Gotki came with some furnace outlets, radiators, we want another in the living room to make it a bit warmer in one end of the room, and he wanted to arrange to have the floor cut when he comes up Wednesday or Thursday. We hurried then with supper and got cleaned up, started a fire ~~and waited~~ ^{and waited} for the others. When it was past nine we wondered if they would come at all, but sure enough about 9.30 they appeared, had gone to Lake Louise and were so sleepy had lain down before supper and slept a couple of hours so had a late supper before coming here. We had a very pleasant evening and they looked at the pictures and sketched and it was 11.30 when they left. They were staying down the road from here so we asked them for breakfast next morning.

Ralph Allen isn't at all the type one would expect an editor to be, an awfully nice sort, red hair and stocky, was born in Oxbow Saskatchewan and they are out west getting material or ideas for a special issue on Alberta and Sask. for the 50th. anniversary

of the formation of the two provinces. He evidently has been very sick so perhaps it is a bit of a brake too. They both have a good sense of humor so there was much kidding going on.

Next morning as they had hoped to be up early we thought we had better be, though after a late evening we could easily have slept in, however we had ~~bur~~ breakfast and it wasn't until nine that they appeared. I wasn't feeling too hot. This cold seems to have gone up into my head and drains down ones throat with a horrid taste, and I had a bit of a headache, so Pete really cooked the bacon and eggs and then took them up to Charlie Beils to see the diorama of a Buffalo Leap he is making, beautifully modeled Indians and Buffalo. They spent the rest of their time there as it proved more interesting ~~hema~~ than they expected and then drove back to Calgary. We had a quiet day luckily and I even snoozed which is unusual for me, but feel much better this morning for not going out or ~~doing~~ much.

It is trying to snow but not enough to make any show and we do need it for the ~~G~~arnival, it looked like snow all day yesterday and was very dull but the sun is out now.

I mean't to answer some of your old letters but instead have written you too much about us, will maybe get around to the other soon.

Loads of love

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta

Tues. Feb. 8, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Did I tell you that I think it would be very nice to send Mildred the silver cake dish that belonged to her grandmother Owen, for eventually her things will go to Waddy Owen who I expect is the only one carrying on the name, also I think it will give Mildred a lot of pleasure in the meantime.

I know I am the limit answering questions but so often we read your letter over town or at lunch and I don't sit right down and answer them and then they finally get in a pile of ones I must answer right away and the pile now is six inches high. But I am slowly lowering the piles on the desk so in the seeable future I may get well organized.

X The Carnival starts to-morrow so this week will be all mixed up most likely, not that we will go to much but the few things you do see take time. We have been asked to judge the ice sculpture on the main street and it's going to be an awfully difficult job. Groups of two, three, or four children join to-gether decide on the animal they want to do and with hatchets, pronged ice chavers, chisels and penknives they start in on the big blocks of ice set up by the Government. They have been hacking away for two weeks, its not easy like a snow man one can keep adding snow onto, this is a large block of ice and once a thing has been cut off it's off. Some of the animals are really good, one is a seal with it's head up and a big ice ball ~~on~~ balanced on it's nose, this is the most graceful I think, then 3 little girls made a cougar and this has the most action. X If we get some good pictures we will send you some. To-day it snowed so everything looks nice & white, snowed about 4 inches last night but there was a little sun this afternoon but not when the children were working.

Somewhere I have written down the name of a new Osbert Sitwell book, have you read a recent one. Something like, "Continental Travel" "The Four Continents" published by MacMillan.

It is now Thursday night and Pete is upstairs drawing in charcoal another picture, this time one of tanning skins a few teepees in the background. the news will soon be on when I will iron the shirts washed this A.M. but in the meantime might finish this.

We really have been lucky in weather for the Carnival, Tuesday it snowed off and on, mostly on and then Wednesday morning was none too promising, cold and dull, so cold I got out the ski clothes and long underwear as I thought it might be chilly walking up and down the main street trying to judge the ski sculpture. We met at 10.30 Mrs Hayes, who is a sculptor herself, Herb Ashley, a game warden who paints and I. We walked up and down and he noted down ~~each~~ animal, The light was flat and there was fresh snow we had to dust off and there were so many good ones we had to have an extra honorable

mention ribbon made. There was first, second, third and four mentions. Took us until noon for the three best ones were so good. the Seal, panther and a goat. It cleared at noon into the loveliest sunny afternoon with clouds lifting in wisps off the mountain tops and the snow sparkling. Couldn't have been lovelier, quite a crowd of mostly local people and the cutest children, so many with scarfs tied behind their necks and in bright colors. The parade was very good. but unfortunately the sun went just as it started to go by and stayed behind a cloud most of the time where we were. Then later they had the opening and a bit of figure skating by the ice ^{pinacle} they make on the river, a part of the river bottom or sort of ~~pal~~. can't think of the word, anyway it is dry in winter or very little water, a sort of sand bar, and on this the ~~Government~~ sets up some spruce trees with pipes carrying water to spray over the trees. They have it going for a month or more before Christmas and as it freezes it forms a rather lovely cascade of ice, it is especially nice this year. Will cut the picture out of the paper for you to see, it was taken from the bridge looking towards ~~hundle~~, I took some too so may have slides to show you.

Jonny was over at noon with ~~adrum~~ and in his cadet uniform, He had put polish on his shoes but forgotten to shine them, and the white from the straps on the drum had sort of messed up his trousers a bit but he looked very well and was all set to head the parade with a new drum copps. Pete got a picture of them, concentrating very hard but all out of step except 2. They had a gun brought up from Calgary for the occasion and opened the Carnival with that.

We printed the pictures Pete took last night. Today we have been rather busy, Ted Gotki of Calgary came to put in an extra duct in the front room to make it a little warmer, we thought it might take all afternoon, but he is exceptionally good, came before lunch and said he would be here at quarter to one, we went up and told Verne who was down at one to cut the hole in the floor, in the meantime Gotki had his helper under the house and tested where the hole should go and by 2.30 or earlier they had it all connected with pipe and the register in and everything cleaned up and had left. So that was nice to have done. It was the most beautiful day to-day, clear and sparkling, about -10° below but didn't feel cold, the sun is getting warmer and the days much warmer, light until six now.

Have one more letter to write so all for this one.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Feb. 13, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Thanks so much for telling us about Bo, am glad it was no worse, just shows how careful one has to be about even little things.

How nice of Florence Phinney to invite you to stay with her in Portland, I should think if you took it easily and didn't try to do too much it would work well for she has the bedroom downstairs and you wouldn't have to go out if you didn't feel like it. She would look after you well too. Nice to do this spring.

When I spoke of Pete not driving and not seeing well out of the side, He has good side vision in that he knows what is there, but to focus sharply the object has to be right where he is looking. Also seeing with just one eye, his nose gets in the way lookin right. But he will be able to drive when he wants I think. Only it rests his eyes if I drive now.

Am sending you the Christmas card of the Beckers. They are such a fine family and of course Linnie is about our favorite. Don the father is at the top, Ruth is the mother and Lona is the loveliest tall girl of about 16, then Linnie is the chubby one below her and the two little boys, Bryan and Stephie. Can't remember what the baby girl's name was is. The little boy Donny, Jonnie's age was killed when he was about 7. They all have such a good time to-gether. I would like the card back to keep, but thought you would like to see what they look like.

Sunday and quite mild, nice for the people up for the Carnival, not much going on. The Queens all went to church we hear, Dr Riley and his small son, Charles, was here while we were having lunch. Norman Luxton was here earlier to see how the paintings are coming on. He has had a bad cold. It helps quite a bit having people drop in for their remarks about the pictures give Pete good ideas, for instance Dr Riley suggested a skin pegged to the ground for tanning or drying and it just filled the corner well, We had never thought of it ourselves.

Yesterday was the skating show. Mrs Simpson brought a program to send to you, It was very good and the tiny children are so awfully cunning, then a hockey game last night. Jonny was just over on his way to the parade so guess we better start too.

Loads of love

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.

Mon. Feb. 14, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

You asked if I had any ideas about designing for you, but am afraid I wouldn't know how to go about it, unless I copied Indian beadwork and it is all geometrical. Have you ever thought of doing little scenes like the two you did during the war of the house in Tofino and the house in snow? I thought they were most attractive. How about something sort of Japanese in design? copy a picture from one of the books of one of those ladies or a flower arrangement. You can see I am not much help. The other thing would be to use an old design with a different colour scheme.

Did I ever answer about the View Master thing with the reels, ~~Yes~~ Why not lend it to the old ladies home and then when they have all had a look at the reels you have. Send the reels to the Campbell children for I know they have the view thing but not many reels and probably after the old ladies have looked at it once they won't want to look at the same ones again.

P Tuesday. Yesterday was fairly busy, more so for Pete than for me. He painted all morning while I went to the dentist and had two teeth filled and then all cleaned, was glad to get that done, then errands. Verne came as we were in the midst of lunch for he is making a part for Pete's camera and then Mr Lonsdale later on with his paintings, Syd Vallance came for just a minute to ask if we would come and eat turkey with them Tuesday night, he was gone about ten minutes and back he came. Did he ask us for Tuesday or Wednesday? couldn't remember which it was for, so we had to ask Sam to-day and also saw Syd again as he was in the store. He is so absent minded we all tease him. Mr Lonsdale had tea and then Verne came back just as we were admiring Mr Lonsdales New Car, and then Cyril Paris drove in with a picture he had borrowed to decorate his tea room window during Carnival and it was six by the time he left. Seems to me I have told you this before, Guess I am getting absent minded too!

To-day I got the kitchen floor cleaned and waxed for it needed it badly, Usually takes a morning before it is done and has had time to dry. Pete has two pictures finished for one side of the Wall and is starting on one of Teepees at night. Once I get the store room cleaned, maybe to-morrow morning, then I will start painting. There have been so many things to do.

Thanks for finding out about Bo, am glad it was no worse. Had a letter from London and the snow drops and daffodills were being sold on the streets.

Not only do we have moose from friends but on Sunday Dr Riley came with his son Charles and brought us two Lobster Tails from South Africa, frozen and flown over. We had them for supper and they were very good. Broiled them with butter.

It's funny how you have a snow storm and even 5 below zero and yet four days later it is gone if it happens to warm up a bit. Whereas we can have just 2 or 3 inches of fine dry snow and it will last a month or more and never melt. Unless we have a real thaw. Quite often if we have a very cold January we will have "a Chinook " or warm wind from the west coast and it will go up to 50 or 60 and then any snow we have melts, but this year it hasn't been real cold but seldom above freezing. except in the sun.

Jean Lindsay Rand mentions what her husband Bill did in the letter, I think before the war he was connected with a dye concern and didn't they live in Germany for a time? This thing he is in now sounds quite an undertaking.

I think that was a real good idea giving the fur coat to the lady who runs the Old Ladies Home, it always seems such a shame to have something like that just sitting unused.

Max we think is just an animal, a bit of several small animals perhaps, like a badger or a mouse or a woodchuck all combined. I think it one of the cleverest books we have ever seen, am glad to see they are drawn by a young man so we can look forward to more.

What a large family Harriet Mayor has and seems scattered all over the place, I quite lost track reading her letter written at the time of your birthday. In fact I don't think I told you that we enjoyed reading your birthday letters, but it was so near Christmas. What very nice ones they were and what a job to acknowledge.

No time to read over.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Feb. 21, 1955

Dearest Mother,

We may be going for the mail before I get this written, but in which case will send it to-morrow. Intended to write this morning but we were a little later getting up and then I put stuff on my hair and washed some things out and hunted for pictures of horses for Pete and first thing I knew it was time for lunch. It is a dull looking day but mild. Funny the way all the blizzards and cold go round us this year. Saw Young Jimmy Simpson last night and he said he and his father had driven up to Bow Lake last week. (the road is being kept open this year to see if it will dry out quicker in the spring) and this year there is less than 2 feet of snow at the lodge, last year it was so deep they could walk in the upstairs window, but there is still time to get quite a bit.

Monday, We had a busy afternoon in the end, got back from the postoffice, took a shower and Pete was working on a model of a horse and Susan came with little David Simpson who is quite a character, he is between 2 and 3 and just talking. Susan was taking him for a walk, he was so good. Jonny came too and we all had ice cream together, then to amuse David while we talked with Susan we suggested he show him the calendar Mildred sent with the monkeys, right away David put on the funniest expression and said "Monkey" was evidently taking one off, he has quite a sense of humor and kept saying "Moose, gobble, gobble, gobble," I think he knew it was "a goose" that did that but the other got a laugh. They had barely gone when Betty Newton arrived with Dorothy Wardle, (who used to live in Banff, and is now writing for the Calgary Herald) and The Motherwell girl who was here once before with Betty, now writes for the Edmonton Journal. They are all nice girls and all interested in writing, so we had a nice visit with them until about six. and then after supper when I should have finished this I started reading and looking out slides.

The wash is doing now and I have several notes to get away, should be finishing the store room, it's not tidied up yet. Mr Lonsdale comes this afternoon with his paintings.

Haven't had too much company wonder have I written since we went to the Vallances for dinner. That was a really busy day. Wednesday. Charlie Beil came in the morning to look at the paintings Pete is doing, he is a great help as he knows a lot about the subjects. He was here most of the morning, then just as we were cleaning up after lunch, Norman Luxton came with Douglas Leachman, head Archiologist (can't spell that) at the National Museum in Ottawa and Don Harvie, son of Eric Harvie who Pete is making the pictures for. Think I told you this. They were here quite a while talking about the pictures and the way Indians do things. Then they had no sooner left than

Pearl and Edmee came as Pearl was leaving the next day for a trip. they stayed to tea. Had just gone when Linnie Becker and Christine Smith came, they are cute kids, now have to write a book for school on different countries, Linnie has Norway and Christine Arabia, but when she found we hadn't much on Arabia she decided to see if she could get a better subject. Linnie is all excited we could tell her so much about Norway and when we dropped her off at her house she called " Next time I come I am going to bring my note book and pencil." Then that evening we went to the Vallances with the Wards for a turkey dinner as it was Dorises birthday, It was a large and very good dinner and felt like Christmas and then later Syd showed us his slides of Switzerland we had never seen before. Some unusually lovely ones, made us quite homesick for the country. It was quite a day.

Thursday Madge and Doris Vallance came to tea, Madge first to see the Indian things etc. She is the sister out from Wales for a year. an awfully nice sort and so keen on everything. Jim Simpson was in too but didn't stay when there were too many women about. Oh. Yes. Billy MacKenzie and Garry MacCullough were also in to borrow Pete's snow shoes to go up the river Saturday. They are Jonnies age.

Friday. Patsy MacKenzie was down after school to have Pete show her how to work her light meter and then we drove her home. Her father too had the flu and cold everyone has been having and then Friday he broke out with Measles of all things. Everyone is teasing him and also wondering how many patients he has given it to !

Saturday was fairly busy and Syd Vallance was down in the afternoon on business and we went to the hockey game that night, it was quite a good one too and ended in a tie.

So we have been fairly busy. The laundry is done so must hang it up.

Loads of love ,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Feb. 22, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Washington's birthday but I nearly forgot until it was mentioned on the radio ! At last we are having a touch of winter. was over cast with a weak sun to-day and then started blowing this afternoon and dropped to zero at supper time with cold gusts of drifting snow. Feels like winter too.

With luck I may get some of your letters answered to-night. Pete is making something at the workbench for one of the cameras. Before supper there were two deer just standing watching him through the window, first time they have been around this winter or even last fall to ask for food, and now one of them is standing in the shelter under the front window, out of the cold wind, maybe feels warmth from the house but I suspect he is also nibbling my prize Juniper bush., one I bought last year!

Speaking of Max, did you see in this weeks Life magazine several pictures of a tame woodchuck, think maybe that is what Max is. It is ~~the~~ in a recent Life + think.

How are your eye lids ? Hope they aren't troubling you. and that the drops helped.

Think I wrote to give the silver cake dish to Mildred that belonged to Grandma Owen and as for the View Master, suggested lending it to the old Ladies home and after they have looked all they want to, to send it to the Campbell children for I know they have a few reels and love them and would find the European ones interesting.

We are interested in all you write, strange about Flannery not being allowed to be buried in the Catholic cemetery but I believe one has to get some dispensation from the Pope to marry again after a divorce. The Wyatts have seperated, but might come to-gether again, actually they are so different one being very English and the other South American and both have such strong characters.

It will be awfully nice for you having Rusty for his spring vacation, How is their hockey team getting on ? Must be fun being on such good teams.

Do hope Mrs Charlotte Brown gets out to see you with her granddaughter Katsy. You will like Patsy I know for she is a most attractive young lady and likes older people as well as those her own age.

Do you see Life? There is an interesting article in this last one Feb. 21st. about a Japanese married to an American.

Did Clare Carruthers just come from England? guess she is finished at Briarcliff. Wish I knew her better for + liked her the little I saw of her. Wonder what she will end by doing, don't blame her for not wanting to live in England after a taste of America, she should try Canada.

You mentioned reading the Emily Carr books and the life of her by Mrs Pearson. I have an idea that most of her books were written about an earlier part of her life and maybe didn't tell of the period when she wanted to adopt Mrs Pearson. I can't quite remember, but most of the books have come out since Miss Carr's death, I think from letters she wrote. "Klee Wyk" was all Indians "Book of Small" her childhood. "House of All sorts" the apartment and stories in connection. then the one about the hospital "Pause" 2 and - - I have just looked and of course there is her life in "Growing Pains" but most of it is about the early part. Just noticed how much she mentions Lauren Harris towards the end. He is an old friend of ours too, in fact I went to the station the other day to see a Marjorie Chapman who was going through and he was on the train. last time we met was in San Francisco on the way north, he was on our train. Maybe Mrs Pearson didn't fit in for there are many close friends she never mentions at all.

The book you asked about that we tried ages ago to get through the Bookshop was by Marius Barbeau and illustrated by William Langden Kihn and the title was something like "Western Indians." It was about Indians and some illustrations in color. *black & white, came out about 25 or 30 years ago.*

Don't know just what one could do about Betty Hiam but perhaps next time we are east we can look her up or maybe Frances will meet her or Anne. But there are so many new people in Concord you don't meet them as one used to. It is the same in Banff, used to know nearly everyone. Now with Patsy Bailey I am sure she and you would get along well but with Betty Hiam I haven't seen her since she was a little girl of ten.

I think you do awfully well to play bridge and don't believe you make many mistakes, after all it is much easier afterwards to see what a person could have done than do it at the time.

Did you notice the Indian Art in this month's National Geographic? It is lovely and such beautiful designs, now if ~~xxx~~ modern art was as lovely to look at, I could understand it better. This Indian Art has so much thought behind it.

You spoke some time ago about the little brown dots in the silk square you use for your knitting wearing out. They had worn through two years ago and I am sure I sent the other square hoping you could use it in place of the Liberty one, Am so glad you can.

That was interesting in Mildred's letter about the young artist who someone is sending to Rome with his bride to study art. Will be interesting to see how he makes out.

Find in a November letter you asked if we knew the friends the Scoborias of Chelmsford visited in Honolulu. named Marks. We don't know them but know where they live on Old Pali Road. Have passed there often, high up on the way over the pass to the other side of the island. Wonder how Mabel Brown is enjoying Hawaii, and where she stayed.

Did I ever thank you for the Salem Golf book, the pictures are lovely and I am glad to have it to keep. Thanks so much. You can see I am getting way down in my pile of letters.

You mentioned thinking it would be nice to send one of the books on Eskimo Art to Bradford Washburn, Shall I get you one to send him or send one from here direct. I guess that will be the best, will send it direct and say that you suggested I send it to him.

Am glad you could get "The Natural House" by Frank Lloyd Wright, we have his life and he is a most interesting person. Lauren Harris told us last year about being taken to spend an evening with ~~Lawren Harris~~ Frank Lloyd Wright near Tucson, Arizona. He was very amusing about it, wish I could remember well enough to tell you, Lawren Harris is one of our best known artists and has done a lot to encourage Art. So when he was introduced and as such to Frank Lloyd Wright, he remarked that he didn't consider one who paints pictures a true artist, (or something like that). An Architect is evidently, but Frank Lloyd Wright has no use for pictures, thinks some murals planned for a certain place are a little different but Lawren Harris said he didn't know quite what to say, anyway Wright does most of the talking and he found it great fun just listening and taking everything in.

Haven't seen Mrs Simpson lately but she certainly recovered very quickly and really did a bit too much for the Skating Frolic but you know how it is if you have done something like that for years, no one else seems to take hold if you can't, and she just had to whip it into shape, luckily it was nice and warm weather then,

Thanks for writing all about Bo, am so glad it all turned out so well.

What a big family Mrs Mayor has, funny you should send her letter all about them just after I asked you.

Wed. night. We are at last having winter weather. It was 10 above yesterday and to-day and last night the wind blew hard drifting the snow before it and this morning was -23 below but got up to 20 above this afternoon which wasn't bad.

Its now Thursday, your letter telling about Gale came this morning, Isn't that wonderful, I didn't realize she stood so high in her studies.

Will return the Article on stealing books. *my good -*
just read it but the last page seems to be missing
 Heaps of love *maybe you didn't send it*
 Catherine

Please return the cards after Cousin Bert
sees them.

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Feb. 27, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We have just finished lunch, steak and brocoli with Hollandaise sauce and soon will be going for the mail so thought I would just type a little as my last letter was such a disjointed one and also when I took it up in the morning I asked the girl if she thought it needed more stamps and evidently she didn't weigh it for later in the afternoon when we went in again it was in our box and said ~~2~~ 3¢ more due, and by that time it had missed the mail going east.

It has been quite cold this past week and this morning was -30 below, the coldest this winter, however it is also clear as a bell and the sun warm and the wind changed to the south west and it is now above zero. This last week it hasn't gotten above freezing and the last few days mostly below zero with a cold wind, and the air all frosty so that the mountains seem to have a mist over them. We probably will get another snow storm and perhaps some more real cold but by March you at least know it won't last long and you may even get days that feel like spring;

Haven't done much of interest, did get the storeroom tidied up so I know where more things are and can at least walk across the room without climbing over boxes of stuff, but have a lot to look over yet, may get at that in the evenings. Winter is about the only chance one gets to do such things and we have been away 3 out of the last 4 winters, so I am about 5 years behind!

Not as many people dropping in lately, except Thursday when Mr Paris came before three, Nick and Willi Morant about 3.30 and Lynnne Becker after school. It was quite a combination but Mr Paris enjoyed an audience for his stories of the old days and even Lynnne entered in to things. Then yesterday as the Morrants were leaving for the east we offered to take them to the train, picked them up about 4.30, brought them here for a high tea of soup, chicken sandwiches, tea and cake, and then they caught the train at six.

This afternoon we have been invited to a "Round up time- Chuck wagon supper 5 - 8" at Charlie Beils. He has just finished a diorama in miniature of the Indians chasing the buffalo over a precipice to be caught and killed. It is very well done and each figure and animal modeled and colored and then the scene painted and modeled too. It is most effective. Will enclose the Christmas card and invitation, (if I remember) to give you an idea, Cousin Bert will be interested as he always liked Charlie's things. This is a party to celebrate the finishing of the diorama of the Buffalo Leap.

The horse & Indian together about a foot high.

You know it is funny how times change and also the way people do things have to change with the times. Hardly anyone in Banff has a maid, I can think of one who is more of a companion and two families with four children who have a girl to help, and there are only a couple of people who go by the day to clean. At

Christmas time for the various cocktail and tea parties, Mrs Powell was in the kitchen washing up and doing things and the other night at the Valances when we went for dinner, ~~Now~~ had gotten it all ready and dished it up and just about the time we were having desert, Mrs Powell arrived to wash the dishes. They said they did it quite often, as they like to have a real dinner with three courses and in this way you can all go into the living room and enjoy the after dinner coffee and aren't confronted with a mess after the guests go home. Like the Wyatts at Christmas time, they said they didn't like doing the dishes, ~~although~~ ^{even though} we of course all offered to help and could have done them in no time, so they were left with a mess by the time we went home.

We had a letter from Pete's mother, perhaps I told you, and she has asked her brother's ~~wife~~ widow to come back to Banff and stay with her. Her brother, John Curren, died a couple of years ago and Aunt Nellie has now sold her house and lives with her married children. I think she has three or four, a month or two with each. It will be a great help to have her accompany Mom back and also have her live in the house with her, how it will work out I don't know, but we hope for the best and in any case if it doesn't Mom can always return to the coast and stay with Lila. Mom doesn't want a stranger with her and so this is about the only solution. We hope they don't come until it gets warmer, maybe the end of March or April.

I just noticed the snow is melting and dripping off the garage roof in the sun, so it must be warmer out.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. March 2, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Your letter just came with the one of Cousin Janis about John Brady. It really is a wonder he has lived so long with the serious heart trouble he has had. I used to think he was awfully old when he married Cousin Emma and in figuring it out that must have been at least 30 years ago. A good long life they had together. I don't expect he would have lived as long if Cousin Emma hadn't been so good to him. As you say you wonder what she will do, perhaps she will live alone if Cousin Jane doesn't like the Cape or perhaps they will stay there in the summer and the Eastland in the winter. Or maybe they will be able to go to Florida to-gether. I do hope that Cousin Emma isn't all worn out and will recover soon.

We are having real winter weather at last. We were pretty sure it would strike sometime and the last few days have been overcast, below zero each morning. -30 below Sunday and -20 another time. Think it is just zero now and we have a funeral to go to. It snows a little all the time but doesn't pile up at all. just in the air *maybe an inch or two on the ground.*

Haven't done a great deal. Think I wrote Sunday. Eileen Harmon and Marcia Prior came for tea that afternoon. Marcia used to come every winter years ago but recently her mother had a stroke and she was at home for 2 1/2 years, her mother died last May and I guess it is hard for Marcia to get going again as she is all alone, younger I guess than we are, but old enough not to know quite what to do, whether to sell the house or what. Lynnise Becker and Christine Smith came for information on Switzerland and Norway for School projects and then we had to go to the Beils in the evening. It was a very nice party, we took the others home, then dressed quickly and arrived about 6.30, just as they were starting to eat. Some had to go to church, like Nellie MacKenzie who plays the organ and others didn't arrive until nearly eight as they were in Calgary. People came and went and all had a look at the diorama set up in the garage where Charlie has been working on it. It was a very nice party, must have been about 30 there. Olive had roast turkey, beef and ham, then bowls of chilli beans, salad and several dishes of scoloped potatoe. buttered slices of bread and all the fixings. a delicious desert made by whipping frozen strawberries, jello and whipped cream to-gether, one strawberry the other pineapple. ~~xxxxxx~~ she had done it all herself. Moved a big table into the kitchen and Charlie fixed a sort of shelf on top of the table with two upright sides so all the plates and forks etc were on that, the food underneath and Olive behind replenishing supplies. The big cook stove with the hot coffee right there, worked just fine, then we sat anywhere around their living room, the studio and little hallway. We stayed until nine.

Monday we had various people, Bill Jamieson before lunch to see Pete about the enlarger and then an Indian looking for old clothes, I told him to come Back later, which he did, but then had to rush about and find something to give him. Anything pretty good we send to the Campbells as they can always make use of them. Then Chuck Beil about Linnie's age, Grade 8, and Carol grade 6 came to get some information we had on Spain and Hawaii. All the grades seem to be doing projects on countries, they have to get pictures and any information they can and make up a book, they do them very well considering their age. Then that afternoon Mr Lonsdale came as usual for tea and to have Pete help him with his pictures. He is so keen and has improved so much that we hate to cut the visit too short.

Yesterday no one came during the day but we were out, Oh. yes. we went to the noon train west to see Marcia Prior away and then did the errands and Pete saw how they were coming on over on the corner. and last night just when I had the desk in a good mess Merle Brewster and Fred Brewster from Jasper Park dropped in for the evening. We had a nice visit from them and Pete showed them the paintings.

To-day we have had another funeral this afternoon, so many old timers seem to have died this winter. Percy Williams who was the local house painter and a real cockney from London. We shall miss him on the main street. Then one of the Greeks who ran a cafe also died suddenly Sunday. Thats one thing about a small town you know so many of the people.

Well it is now supper time. You sounded quite gay at your last bridge and can imagine how funny Madie was.

Are the Bartletts in Florida this winter ? Don't think you have mentioned them. Hope that Russ and Kitty get nice weather, it has been so cold most places.

Lots of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. March 5, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter written last monday just came, seems slow somehow but then I don't always ~~check~~ check the date. Wish they sent them quicker as they do in Canada now. All first class mail in Canada goes by air or the quickest way, but then our rates are higher, too high really. 5¢ for Calgary or for Montreal and 4¢ local. An ordinary letter posted in Calgary reaches Montreal and Toronto the next morning, but to the states they must still go by train.

I was thinking that with Russ and Kitty away I had better write shorter letters and send them oftener, might even get a lot of clippings sent you that way, things I too have saved to send but unfortunately not as systematically as you, mine are in odd piles with other clippings, some in the kitchen, some in living room, others upstairs. Some too old to send I guess!

At last, our weather is warming up, was - 30° below twice and never much below zero in the daytime, but a west wind last night, - 15° this morning and got up to 25 this afternoon. It was the only cold feeling spell all winter.

Have many people been sick with flu in the east? nearly everyone has had a touch of it here, ours were only colds but many have the kind where you are weak all over and just have to go to bed. Barbara who is rarely laid up was in bed five days and Jonny 8, Harold not as long. Some little children have even had rheumatic fever or pneumonia. It's a real bug.

We were so glad to have the photograph of the Swiss boy, he looks a fine lad and it must be very interesting for Frances and Gil, would like to meet him though I don't think we have stayed in the part of Switzerland he came from as we always went to the little places in the high mountains.

Yesterday morning Don Harvie and his wife ^{from Calgary -} dropped in to see how the paintings were coming along and they are such a nice couple and so interested in painting. Then in the afternoon Syd and Doris Vallance dropped by and stayed to tea, (though they didn't think they should), and Wednesday night Fred Brewster and Merle came over and stayed until after ten. but otherwise we haven't had too many visitors.

Sunday. It is warming up. 15° above at 8 this morning and now about 20°, looks as if it might be milder, Pete is getting the cameras and lenses ready to try and get some pictures of Magpies for Franklin Arbuckle, it has been so cold every since they were here there hasn't been much chance.

next time.

Will enclose some pictures that the Campbells sent us of the ranch in winter, Ralph Pilling took them with an old box brownie. But they give a good idea of the ranbh y in winter, not looking south to the mountains.

Instead of writing more now will try to do a page at a time and oftener, I used to write everyother day and it was easier then to remember when I last wrote, some times I suddenly wonder if several days haven't gone by and no letter sent to you.

Loads of love from us both.

Catharine

Its over 30° at noon & melting

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Mar. 8, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Just got the snow pictures of the Campbell's ranch marked to give you some idea of what it is. This only covers a small portion of their land but gives a good idea of the way the buildings are clustered to-gether. The " Pig Palace " is the newest and largest for they have started raising pigs, Ralph built it and looks after the pigs while Gray raises the feed.

After writing Sunday we had a busy afternoon, listened to Canada beat Russia in the so called World's championship hockey games in Europe, then Uncle Jack came in for a call, His daughter is a missionary in Southern Rhodesia, and when he mentioned "Melsetter" as the place she lives I thought it sounded like the same place where a friend of Gray's lives, looked up a letter he had sent us to read and sure enough they live in Melsetter too. Then later looked at d'Arcy Baker-Garr's Christmas card and found they have gone to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia which isn't far away. Seems funny the only people we know of in Africa all live so near one another.

We went for the mail as Uncle Jack Campbell left, and when we returned Bill Jamieson came to borrow the recorder and a recording we had made for him of a radio program for Rotary, he also looked at the camera and before he left Lilla Wright, Grace Mather's sister, from Calgary came with a man, Bob Murray of Toronto. We were having coffee when Susan and her little friend from Calgary dropped in after skiing to return some shoes borrowed and they stayed long after Lilla had left and we took them home just before supper and then Harold came to show us some slides and spent the evening.

Yesterday was milder than Sunday and quite a bit of snow went off the roof, to-day is mild but snowing a tiny bit and dull. Mr Lonsdale came in the afternoon and I got as much wash out as I could and it dried nicely, smells so much nicer when it dries outside.

Today everything seemed mixed up, Pete wanted to frame the next two paintings he has finished and found Sam had cut the stuff wrong so we had to go over town about that and now Sam has been and will be back later with it cut right we hope, Cyril Paris may be down too but first must run up to the post office.

Loads of love and hope your weather is as springlike as ours.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

March 12, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

My good intentions aren't doing too well, for I was sure I would write on Thursday and then Mr Scott came down in the middle of the morning just as I was finishing a letter that had to go that day. He is such a dear old man and a regular farmer type who has plenty of time to just sit and talk, and never realizes how much people now-a-days have to do, Pete was busy painting upstairs and doesn't come down if he doesn't have to, so I got stuck for half an hour, then it was time to go for fresh fish for lunch and something else happened in the afternoon and no letter that day.

Then yesterday was really funny. In the morning I was helping Pete with the angles of the poles for a picture he was drawing in of the inside of a teepee and the perspective is very tricky, and he finds it hard with his glasses to see the painting as a whole near to, in fact he can't. There was a knock and Pat Brewster came to see if we would come over in the afternoon to look at his collection of paintings and tell him the value, a most difficult thing to do really. He hadn't seen the ones Pete is working on so came upstairs and we had a good visit from him. Again lunch and during that Elsa Wyatt came about buying our old Leica Rex enlarger. Then after lunch Mrs Simpson came to return some books and hadn't seen the pictures for a while and she is very enthusiastic about them, and before she left Eldon Walls came about the leases for the store to be signed, and other business. So it was quite a combination of people, then we took the enlarger over to Nobles for them to sell to Elsa and up to Pats to see his pictures and tea. Then the shopping and we met Earl Pletch from Vancouver, here for skiing and by that time it was supper. After supper Pete wanted to finish a roll of pictures which he is taking as an experiment with a lens and then develop so the evening too was gone and now it is Saturday and the weekly vacuuming and dusting done and I must go over town soon to see if I can get a cake at the food sale.

How nice it will be for you having Rusty there for his Easter Vacation, I can see that old age is a lonely business, and the more one has early in life the harder it is to adjust later to a quiet life alone. Pete's mother in her last letter wrote that she just sits in her room and "Longs for home". Yet when she is here most of her time is spent all alone as hardly anyone goes to see her and I am afraid we don't drop in as often as we should. It's not that young people aren't interested in older ones but just that now-a-days they are so busy and the way life is lived there is so much more running around and doing things. Would it help you to send for someone to come up in the afternoon with their knitting, but I expect when you don't feel like going out you don't feel much like making an effort to talk to someone either.

Pete has been screwing a part for the camera with some help from me and so this is sort of an interrupted letter, I must go or I won't get a cake. Heaps of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Mon. March 14, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Rather a busy weekend so didn't get a chance to write, but as the mail is 4 hours late to-day will have to go up again and so might as well write a short note.

Saturday we had quite a day, Pete working on the painting in the morning and then after lunch Jim Simpson came to see how the pictures were coming along, then we made a cup of tea and in the midst of that Syd Worts and Evelyn came, he is the bank manager and they are very interested in the paintings, so they had tea first and were upstairs looking at the pictures and summer's sketches when Br Riley and his small son Charles came along. The tea was still warm so he had a cup and Charles had about 3 pieces of the cake I had just bought at the food sale, By the time we had all sampled it there wasn't much left. Charles kept cutting off one more sliver, I think he enjoyed that part. Then in the evening Susan and her little friend Joyce from Jasper, ^{mother} ~~also at Not Royal College~~ came over to see us. We feel rather pleased that whenever she is up she comes with the girl who has come with her, even if only for half an hour, or the whole evening. They were going to the dance but wanted to see how the Indian pictures were getting on.

Then yesterday we did a stupid thing, woke to find it just above zero and the house cool, the furnace off. Pete telephoned Steam Watt. the nice part of the plumber being an old friend, He came right down, ^{28.30AM} and fixed the Air Lock in the oil line and then as it didn't go, he and Pete measured the tank, not enough oil! We were letting it

down a bit as we are changing to gas this spring, and mean't to measure it all this last week but either we forgot or it was snowing or people came in and we never did, but Sunday is a poor day to run out. However Steam telephoned to Mr Boone and he brought us oil before 10 A.M. another obliging friend.

Then we took some pictures of the painting as Pete wanted to try a lens out, and Mrs Boone and her son Tommy came in the afternoon to see a camera we have, then Pete developed the film and after supper we made some prints. so it was a full day.

This morning -5 below and still quite cold. Pete is having quite a time on the perspective of the Teepee. He is doing an interior and on a long panel it is very tricky. I forgot, ^{Sunday} Norman Luxton was down yesterday morning for about an hour and he thought it looked pretty large so this morning Pete changed it and every time I started to do anything he would ask how I thought it looked, am afraid I wasn't much help .

Now Mr Lonsdale is due and I must get overtown before he comes. Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Mar. 15, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter written the 10th. just came, hope you are feeling better now. Don't you think sometimes at the end of the winter one feels a little let down, sort of spring fever and then spring comes and it is so nice you forget all about it? Also I notice one feels spryer when the barometer rises, may be nothing to it but the birds must have some way of knowing when to go south and when to start north, so perhaps we do feel the weather and blame it on other things.

You also should remember you are now in your nineties even if others don't realize it. We were talking to-day about the time you took us to Annisquam to see the remarkable old lady, Mrs Hyatt. Pete said she seemed liked a grand duchess to him, and we sort of took turns going over to speak to her in her little cap and her cane, everyone waiting on her and showing her great respect and we all felt how remarkable she was for her great age. Wonder how old she was at the time, 25 years ago? I bet her daughters are as old now as she was then and do a great deal more and have no one looking after them!

What I really started to write was that the color picture of you came some time ago. It is about 3 inches by 5 ins. I thought I had mentioned it. Ebbs sent us one at Christmas and said he had taken it on his father's 80th birthday I think it was. Very good of a certain amused expression you have. I don't think George Manierre took it. Am sure that anything you mail without enough postage will reach me O.K. They charge double postage at this end if you haven't put on enough. Had to pay extra on one from Russell a few weeks ago.

Haven't been able to get another Eskimo Art book yet but it is on order. We heard over the radio the other day that Bradford Washburn was leaving for Mt McKinley I think and has one Canadian in the party, that was why it was on our news.

Now Wednesday, Monday it was -6 below again and quite cool but is warming up to-day with a west wind and sun. Have the laundry out so hope it goes above freezing. We had Mr Lonsdale for tea Monday with his paintings, he is improving a lot but is a very good student, does or tries all the things Pete suggests and so is learning fast. Then yesterday we had Mrs Rowland and Mrs Richardson for tea. Asked them down when we kept meeting them at the various Christmas parties. They came to Banff over a year ago and stayed at the Bow View Apts. down the road from us, liked it so much they bought a house which they fixed over, One is divorced I think, the other's husband died and they are sisters from Winnipeg. Very attractive sort and both have married children, so have given up their homes, one weaves but so far hasn't found time to do a great deal, think she went to the summer school last year. or the year before. They know a lot of people we do.

Something like the Miss Morrisons if they had been married and were younger. Very appreciative and lots of fun.

It is time to go overtown now so will send this along have been mounting slides in the evenings, there are so many things I should be doing it is hard to know which to do first. The evenings by the time we have finished supper and go to bed in time to listen to the ten o'clock news, are very short.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. March 18 , 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't done well at all in writing the last few days but we have run into company at night, it seems to go in streaks. Wednesday Bev asked if she could bring her father down, He is staying with her while young Cliff is at the coast on a Shell Oil course, how to operate the stations more efficiently etc. and we had never met Mr Pogue before. Bev said " We will come early and go early " but it was quarter to nine when they got here. Jonny had arrived first and he went up to Baby sit while they were here. Mr Pogue found he was in the R.C.A.F. about the time Pete was and very interested in the paintings (or photographs ~~ket~~ of the paintings) that Pete did at that time. so it was after 11 when they left.

Thursday we weren't too bright when we got up in the morning but didn't have any more callers until Thursday night about the same time and Red Cathcart and his wife Eunice came to see the paintings, he is connected with the museum and she has been away for about 6 weeks. They lived for a time up on the west coast of Vancouver Island and know Tofino etc. I don't think Red had much schooling but he knows a lot about Indians and is really interested in them, too bad he hadn't more education for he has the knowledge from experience. They stayed until after 11 too, another late night. I forgot Charlie Beil was down that afternoon and had a look at the paintings , then went home and got some books to loan us. They are wonderful ones to have. We are wondering if you could get copies for us and I will enclose the names on a separate paper? Wonderful to have for reference.

Friday we had a quiet morning, in fact most of our mornings are undisturbed and as we are getting up at 7 or 7.30 it gives us several hours, the light is good now real early. In the afternoon Charlie Moffat, the fire chief, and a lad Pete grew up with and was in the Reserve Army with, came to bring his sister's address in Honolulu. She had written that she met a Hawaiian in an orchestra who knew us and wondered where we were this winter as they missed us in Honolulu. I don't know as he has been here for a long time and he too looked at the paintings and we had quite a talk. After the two late evenings we weren't too ambitious any way. He hadn't been gone long when Olive Beil dropped in with her youngest child. She has been coming down since Christmas and as she says when Charlie decides to come it usually is when she can't get away. Then last night we were going to bed real early when Edmee dropped in about nine and stayed until 10.30. She hasn't been down since her mother left, about a month, so it was really funny for most of the time no one comes in the evening especially.

Thanks so much for sending Russell's letter and will return it so you will be encouraged to send any others, for we like to hear. It sounds as if it would be a real vacation with someone to look after the housekeeping and do hope they have good weather.

Thanks too for the colored pictures as I know the Campbells will like to have them to send the rounds of various friends. We would like to have the black and white snow ones back sometime. Will send their last letter for you to read after I have answered it.

I thought those murals just awful in Canadian Art. Seems that the magazine is run by a small group and they represent the more modern trend, seems to be the same in England too. We have just had an exhibition in Calgary of the Seagram Collection of paintings of Canadian cities and it has gotten favorable comment among the average person, will send you the clippings about that too. The ultra modern Artists have been very critical, maybe because they aren't represented but ~~after~~ when showing the pictures in ~~the~~ Paris there was so much interest they had to hold the show over for five days.

In respect to the pictures of Gray's land, it ~~is~~ all under snow at the time but the wind soon clears off the high spots and then the cattle can find feed. They don't find it lonely but of course they can't see their nearest neighbors about a mile away but do look over the valley and can see the distant lights. The Pillings are a couple with two children, Dawn about 12 and the little boy Wayne 7. They go to school with Dane and Timmy, riding on one horse. Ralph Pilling built a wonderful Pigg building, they call it the Pig Palace, and he raises pigs with the feed that Gray grows. so he and Gray work together and they live in the little two room cabin on the ranch right nearby but not too near. Maybe the other colored ones will uncurl if put under a weight for a while.

About Mrs Jenny, you find out when she is apt to come and tell her if she is staying in the village to just walk around to see us as we have no phone. It is only a couple of blocks from the hotels downtown. If we knew when they were coming we could look them up. If it is in summer the staff are often just new to Banff but any one who lives here knows where we live I guess. It would be a nice way for them to return and after April 24th. the trains will all be the new ones with dome cars and a day shorter going across the country. For them it would be a nice trip right to Montreal and or Toronto and back to Boston. Some people don't realize there are other hotels open all year in Banff. *also round trip via Banff is the same as going across the U.S.A. - back*

Saturday and I must go and do the shopping.

Loads of love ,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

March 22, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having winter here, They said milder to-day and I planned to wash so as to hang the clothes out but we woke to find a strong north wind and drifting snow and zero and now it is after 11 A.M. and still only 2 above. Surely we will have a thaw soon. there isn't much snow but about 6 inches and some drifts.

Didn't do much over the weekend as I ate something that didn't agree and felt sort of punk at times, enough so that I got lazy and didn't write the letters I had hoped to get done. and new ones seem to arrive as fast as I get the old ones answered.

Have just written Ebbs a long one with suggestions for their trip this summer, looks as if they might get to Banff about Indian Days which would be real fun for them I should think. It will be fun for us too.

Do feel sorry that you aren't feeling better, It must be pretty lonely for you, especially when you can't get out each day. If only you had someone in the front part of the house, I realize you don't want one of those companions who has to be included in everything you do and would sort of worry you to think and plan for, but it would be nice to have someone in Jean's room you could hear moving about and could call if you wanted something and would answer the phone and take messages and most important of all to be able to talk to about the little things of every day and any family news you get. It's so much better if you can share your thoughts about the weather or a radio program or anything like that.

Young Cliff just got back from the coast where he stayed a bit with the Stockands and says Pete's mother was well enough to be downtown when he arrived. She is evidently all packed and ready to come home as soon as her sister-in-law is better and can come with her. We are just hoping Aunt Nellie will like it well enough to stay for we too hate to think of Mom living alone in case she is ill or falls and no one would know if she couldn't reach the phone, also she should have someone to help with the house work and to talk to. Too bad Mr Scott wasn't Mrs Scott, but he was down last night for over an hour, just lonely I think but he hasn't much conversation, mostly about farming and his family and we don't know a great deal about either. If it had been Mrs Scott as well as he is, she might have lived with Mom!

Must go for the mail and some lunch now.

Loads of love,

Calmarie

Banff, Alberta.

Friday

March 25, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Your Sunday letter has just come to-day telling about Hanne and I can't tell you how delighted we are. We hated to think of you living all alone in that end of the house and yet we realized you didn't want the kind of person Miss Macquarrie was to whoever it was she was companion too. (I've forgotten, shows I must be getting old) Hanne really is part of the Robb family as Jean was and so closely associated, and interested in all that Gale and Rusty do. Didn't she spend a good many vacations with you when the children were little? She will know how you like things done and it will be a much nicer coming home to know that she is upstairs waiting for you and interested in where you have been. She knows all the friends and relations and all in all it should be just fine. Also she is near Helga and her family which makes it nice for each of them, and she drives a car which will be a great help lots of times. We are awfully fond of Hanne and feel very happy to think she is to be with you. Don't know why I never thought of her. It will be nice for Gale and Rusty too and ~~which~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ in a way you will keep Hanne busy until one of them gets married and starts having children of their own.

What a lot of nice letters you sent, Too bad that Kitty's Uncle Barret died but far better after two strokes. We have a sad case here of a wife who is bedridden and doesn't really know what is what, after a severe stroke, and yet she may go on that way for a long time.

It was nice Frances and Gil could go to Naples but wasn't it funny all the people arriving at once? That is the way it is here, either a lot or no one at all. I thought all their letters most interesting and loved Frances description of Miami. Maybe Cousin Bert and Alma will want the letter so will return hers with Russ and Kitty's.

What fun for you having Rusty there and his friend from Marblehead too. How long a vacation does he get I wonder, some times it is only a week or ten days at Easter.

Nice of Mercelia to send us the list of Paintings and the ones she liked, Will keep the list as it has the artists addresses, We used to know Pat Gavin who did "Roses and Glass" and "Still life with Hals Print" He was at Art school with us in an advanced class but very helpful to younger students, haven't heard of him since. and Dwight Shepler "Off the Thorofare, Maine" and "Waittsfield Valley, Vt." we knew, He came to see us in Banff once Does ski pictures. MacIvor Reddie was a friend of John Edwards who we knew, have one of his oil's. and I see Lassell Ripley lives in Lexington. Were they rather conservative? as a whole. *Sounded like a fine exhibition.*

Wondering what you found on the top pantry shelves of interest? What were the teapots like? Not interested in the gold and white one but can't remember the other. Maybe if you described a couple of things I might remember them! As long as they don't land in a rummage sale it is O.K. Maybe Frances could use some? *Keep them in the family or murder.*

You spoke of it snowing and here we have had cold weather. It was -30° below zero yesterday morning, but Wednesday felt colder. I think it got up to about 5° above that day and such a cold wind and drifting snow. Then dropped to the -30° Thursday but the sun was bright and it got to 10° above by afternoon, this morning -20° below and to about 20° this afternoon, the snow melting where the sun hit and it was black underneath like the roofs. It was clear and lovely to-day. I have been trying to get some pictures of Magpies for Franklin Arbuckle who does covers for Maclean's Magazine that we sent Cousin Bert Christmas. I get the Jeep parked and sit inside and wait for them to come for bread. The minute I give up and come indoors down they swoop for the bread I put on the snow.

Maclean's I will never make a bird photographer, haven't the patience, but have written about 10 letters while waiting. It was cold though writing yesterday at 10° above, but to-day I got a few shots at them, maybe they are getting used to me. Ask Cousin Bert if you can borrow the last number about Dick Bird and Ada his wife. (It has a man in a red rowboat on the cover). They are good friends of ours and here most summers, Gave the pictures at the Banff Springs last year. Are lots of fun but they were a bit discouraged with all the rain last summer. The article is all about them and how they photograph birds.

Wednesday we expected Joe Kingman of Minneapolis and his wife, think I told you and then when it was so stormy thought they wouldn't come, but they did, about nine with the Wonnacots and stayed until about 11. It was nice to see them, they are skiing.

Yesterday we had three little girls aged ten come to be tested for their Brownie's artist badge, Carrol Beil, Marilyn Mortimer, and Wendy Staples. They each had a watercolor of a scene and of some flowers or an animal and then a model of a dog or horse or snake. They were awfully cunning, we passed them all after two had drawn the primary colours again. had gingerale and cake and then drove them home as it was pretty cold.

To-day Syd Vallance was down in the morning, still about the store lease that Jackie always finds something wrong with, most annoying. Then this afternoon as I was all poised to shoot a magpie Tom Kaquits appeared instead and Pete was just coming into the work shop so let him in. He had two toy teepees to sell. He hadn't gone very long when Tommy Boone came to see if we wanted to join the film council, and then Sam appeared, he has been laid up with a bad back and then Carrol Beil for a sweater she had left yesterday. So it was a busy afternoon. *Johnny in the evening.*

Sunday morning, Foolishly I never finished this letter Friday night so it wasn't ready to mail when I went over town yesterday morning but thought I would surely have time to post it in the afternoon. It was a beautiful day Saturday, clear and the sun quite warm, finally got up to 32° and melted a bit. I got all set to take magpies again and was just re-reading Russell's letter thinking to write him when Mrs Simpson came to return some books and go for a walk. She got a touch of the same stomach flu thing we had, only she was really sick to her stomach and Harrie and Jimmie had been too. So guess we were lucky. She sat with me for a while and then came in to see the recent work Pete has done, Shex~~xxxx~~~~just~~~~going~~ went and we were just going out to finish up the roll of film on something else as Magpies were scarce when Ted Gotki arrived. He is the best furnace man and we are planning to change over to gas this spring and put in a more efficient furnace and a smaller one which can be raised off the floor so when we get water in the basement it won't affect the furnace. At the same time we will make the floor as waterproof as possible but have to dismantle the present furnace in order to do it. So we were very glad to see him and he hopes to do it sometime in May before the river starts rising.

He was still here when Barbara came over to tell us about some slides we had lent Harold to show his friends and how much they enjoyed them and Gotki left when Elaine Hicks a friend of Susans came with some Indian things belonging to her father to show us. Another knock on the door and Verne Castella to see us, Barbara left and another knock and Susan and Joyce from Jasper. So we all had gingerale and cake as the kids had been skiing and were thirsty. Then they wanted to see the paintings which we thought pretty good of them and they told us about some pictures they saw in Calgary. ^{They} are becoming painting conscious evidently. By the time they had all left ~~we~~ it was after five and just time to pick up some things we needed over town. We had a quiet evening luckily.

To-day the Morants arrive and we are to meet them at the train and have their groceries. Norman Luxton was to have come down at ten but hasn't shown up yet.

Did I ever tell you that when Mrs Foss wrote us after Christmas to thank us for our card she spoke of how much they enjoyed the Television set you gave them and how kind it was of you.

Better get lunch organized before we go to the station so all for now. Loads of love, and our very best to Rusty too.

Pete & Catherine.

Banff, Alta.

Wed. Mar. 30, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Just a quick note so as to have it to mail when we go out, usually at noon. I often think I will write after lunch but usually something comes up to prevent or else if I find time to write then, I don't get it mailed.

We have had three mild days when it got up to 42 above and melted quite a lot, though at night it tightens up again and is nearly noon before it begins to melt next day. A warm night is best for getting rid of snow. This morning a little discouraging to wake and find it snowing but perhaps it will rain later, is just very dark and dull at present.

Sunday we expected Norman Luxton at ten but it was eleven when he finally came. We had promised to meet the Morants at 11.30 so I went to the station for them and Pete stayed with Norman who wanted to talk about the paintings. The train was a bit late but the Morants came back for Sunday steaks with us and then we took them to their house. Nick had just two days but Willi will stay on to do some varnishing and painting and urge on the carpenter to finish a few things. Nick has some interior pictures of the hotel in Regina to take and then they go east for a lecture with colored slides. We took him to the train last evening.

It was such a lovely day Sunday we went out and finished up a roll of film in the camera with telephoto experiments. but otherwise no one came in so the afternoon and evening were quiet.

Monday I got the wash out as it was mild and wrote a few letters and Pete painted, then in the afternoon Mr Lonsdale came and later Cyril Paris and Harold with a book about a camera he is thinking of getting and it was 5.30 by the time they left.

Tuesday the rest of the wash and more typing to do. Mrs Painter was down after lunch with some books to return, she hadn't been down for 6 weeks so was surprised to see how much Pete had done. Then some errands and a bit of spring fever and we took Nick to the train.

What a lovely letter from Gale, can't you imagine what fun ten of them will have in Naples. Just hope the good cook doesn't get discouraged with that many coming and going, I don't wonder Rusty preferred staying with you, he would have been over run with females.

In one letter you mentioned the Jenny's going to California and that they might come back through Banff, perhaps you mean't someone else, but Pete is sure the name was Jenny for he asked who they were. Anyway we will be glad to see whoever it is.

Do you have a Ford car, or a car made by Ford? If so do you get the little magazine "Ford Times"? I think you

would enjoy it the pictures are lovely and mostly in color and the articles very short and interesting. Nick had a copy but they won't send it to people in Canada, but any Ford owner can have it sent to them in the U.S.A. Ask George about it sometime for he may know. If you should get it we would like it afterward. There are such good reproductions of both Kodachromes and Paintings.

Barbara's daughter has graduated from the University of Alberta ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in Home Economics and is now taking a years apprenticeship as a dietician at the General Hospital in Vancouver. She has to do this before getting her degree. She works for a month in each department and as Barbara says, Bubby is so enthusiastic about the work that she thinks each department better than the previous one. Last I heard she was in the out patient department working out diets for patients and before that doing baby formulas. She lives with 3 other girls in a small suite, evidently in a two family house. At New Years they all went out that evening and found each of the three had forgotten their key when they came home. It was two in the morning and they didn't know what to do. Their land lords were also out. They went and telephoned the police who said they could break down the door for them but they didn't like to do that so they thought they might get a ladder from the fire department and get in an upstairs window. So the fire department was most obliging and came, but with all the sirens screaming and woke up the entire neighborhood! and Bubby said they weren't very popular.

Davy is in Hollywood studying at a school for music. He has been very keen on playing in orchestras for several years and really worked hard on the school orchestra and played in the local dance band, has picked it up himself with the help of some of the Banff springs orchestra and others. That was all he wanted to do and it was even hard to get him to finish his grade 12 in school. So Barbara figured he might as well go on with his greatest interest as he is young and if he doesn't like it he has time to study something else. Can't say we think much of jazz but as Jonny says, he studys "Classical jazz" too. whatever that is. Jonny says "the Grand Canyon suite is classical jazz! He came home by bus at Christmas and spent all his time practising. Is going to try and get a job with Greyhound this summer and then get a half fare all over by bus. I think he has another year at the school. It is supposed to be one of the best in the states.

Couldn't you be a spare on the bridge club next season if you feel it is too much, or just go for part time and play until some one late comes or play if another has to go early. Then it wouldn't be so long. Actually it isn't so awfully serious if you make a mistake, it is supposed to be a game you know.

If you have the black and white photographs in Grays book or the colored ones in, you just keep them; So often you say you don't want other peoples photographs around and that is why we said we would like them back, I never thought of your putting them in a book. so just keep them there.

There is always so much to do around a house as well as letter writing etc. I have been trying to paint a bit each day but can't decide if it is better to get other things on my mind cleaned up first and then have more time to paint or what? I should try water color as one can leave that better than oils! Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alta.
April 1, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Better start right out answering questions. About the London Studio. If you don't want it any more, don't take it for us. Remember a year or two ago you thought of stopping it and then the next few numbers seemed more interesting so you kept on, but there are too many ultra modern things in it and not enough lovely things. Seems as if all the art magazines tend to the abstract stuff. Some artists feel that a small group ~~xxxx~~ get in control and only show what they are most interested in and after all no one would buy the stuff if it wasn't that it was fashionable and the critics ~~they~~ like it. So don't continue your subscription for us.

We take the Illustrated London News so don't send any copies of that.

It would be better for us if you could send the books one at a time if large, two perhaps if small, by mail. There is a cheaper rate for books than for other things. Then there is no duty to pay and they come right through as gifts. If you send them by freight they only come as far as Calgary and we have to get a customs broker to clear them for us and to pay the duty, for on new books there is duty if they come all at once. One at a time they figure they are gifts. Perhaps you could send a couple, one to each of us for Easter and then for my birthday, there is ~~no~~ big rush. It's too bad you have to do so much parcelling but perhaps now Hanne is there she won't mind. Helga did ~~up~~ the Christmas bundles so well.

How nice it is that Rusty has been with you all his Easter Vacation, perhaps he enjoys it as I used to enjoy staying with the Phinneys and he is free to do as he likes. Rather hard having to study during ones holidays but with the baseball season coming along I guess he will want to get as much done now as possible.

March was rather stormy with us too, more wintry than the early winter. but this last week has been mild, up to 40 and 45 each day and melting, so quite a bit of bare ground shows though we still have snow but one can wear rubbers instead of over shoes, though the other day I stepped into a puddle by the bank right over the rubbers.

When you spoke of Miss Barrett I wondered if you ever thought of a place built something like a motel, if you know what they are like. A group of little suites all joined to-gether. Most of the modern Western motels are built around a court yard or in a row so each car is backed up to the door for convenience. But one we were at near Minneapolis was built more like a hotel with a hall running down the middle and rooms on either side.

each with it's own bath, and a door onto an outside porch. If only there was a place where lone people could live, but each have their own bedroom and sitting room and bath and a little closet like kitchenette with small electric stove, refrigerator, and tiny sink. They make compact ~~units~~ units like that. Then an older person like Aunt Julie or Miss Barrett or the Lorings could have their own little place but if they were sick would have a nurse available and perhaps meals if they wanted them in a homelike dining room, or brought to their room. They could join with others for entertainment or stay by themselves when they preferred. If it was all on the ground floor there would be no stairs.

In a recent Calgary paper there was quite an article on a home for " Senior Citizens " made out of the old isolation hospital. There are both men and women and one couple too, and they are all well people, wish I had cut it out. Showed the men doing their own washing in a laundry and having a good time by the looks of it and the women sewing to-gether ~~and~~ etc. but it is more of a home. Also in Calgary one of the Service clubs is working towards building separate units for elderly couples near the General Hospital, they have several completed. I think everywhere there is the same need. People live longer than they used to due to medical care and the average house is smaller so the parents can't live as easily with the children and then there are few with help these days which makes it more difficult too.

People don't want to go to a home but would like a little suite of their own and someone who would care for the whole place and be available if they fell or were sick or needed help.

While I think of it, If you remember , put our P.O.Box number on your letters to us. Ours is just " Box 30 " and then when the Banff Springs Hotel opens it is not as apt to get up there and it also makes it easier for them to sort at the post office here.

Better call this a letter,

Loads of love, to you & Rusty
& an best to Harne too .
Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

April 4, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

It is so nice outside to-day that I shall make this just a quick letter for even if it is too soggy to rake yet I can pick up the odd papers that have blown about and now that the snow has melted, show up. We have thousands of cones from the spruce trees which the birds knock off, while getting the seeds to eat. The sky is a soft blue and there is no wind and the sun real warm, the temperature just about 40 but feels warmer.

We had a busy weekend after all, Saturday the Sowdens just back from Honolulu made quite a visit of an hour but had had tea, then Linnie and Christine arrived but we had to do some errands so they didn't stay long. That evening we were expecting a Mrs Lloyd who has been here a year, from Calgary, met her when she collected for the Red Cross. She had some friends coming up for the weekend and didn't know how to entertain them so I said to bring them over. They have lived in China 30 years, were teachers in a mission. ^{300 miles west of Chungking -} A Mr and Mrs Wilmot came to Calgary from China just 2 years ago and are teaching at Mt Royal college a most interesting couple. Before they arrived Ken and Evelyn Ford ~~arrived~~ came, he is an engineer with the Government. So we had quite an evening. The Wilmots were here until 11 and the Fords stayed on and seemed to enjoy talking so much it was one A.M. when they left. late for both of us. From 8 until 1 is quite a stretch.

Sunday, yesterday we slept until after 8, we have been getting up at 7 most mornings now it is light early. Then Pete thought he wouldn't paint after a late night so about 11 we went up to see how Willi Morant was getting on with the varnishing and painting she is doing on their house while Nick is away. She had slept in and just having a late breakfast so we sat with her while she ate. Came back and made our lunch. Then in the afternoon Carol Beiland the little Mortimer girl came to tell us the Wyatts would be down soon. Elsa came with her sister Mrs Pelaz, who is Veronica's mother, and the baby in a basket. It was a bit confusing with the three little girls. Elsa asking Pete about photography the baby crying and needing attention quite often and I trying to make tea and toast buns and talk to the sister just from New York. It was funny in a way. She is very nice, quite south American looking, at least Spanish looking and young. I asked her if she had been to the Hispanic Museum in New York and she never had, so showed her the photographs of Sorolla's murals, then if she knew where the Roerich pictures were, she had never heard of those either. She was surprised to come to Banff and having lived in New York not know of the places we did! But I guess she just hadn't happened to hear of them.

We had a quiet evening last night and I did write some letter Will answer yours soon as I have them here to look over.

Don't send any more National Geographics as we get them each month. ^{or the Illustrated London News.}

Heaps of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. April 6, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Spring seems to be here all of a sudden and it is hard to stay indoors, yet a little wet to rake the grass. It was 55 to-day and says 65 to-morrow, will seem too hot to work outdoors then. The snow has gone so nicely, not too fast but just disappeared without too many deep puddles, we have none between us and the river and only a few patches at the back where it drifted in that last storm. We even have one larkspur showing next the house, up about 2 inches and out the west road we saw a lovely bluebird night before last. It feels like spring and no wind, just a warm sun and it is really lovely. If Pete wasn't anxious to finish his paintings before summer we would go sketching, I guess we will have another snow storm but it shouldn't stay long. Maybe it is an early spring, I hope so.

X Yesterday we painted in the morning and then were just putting the heat on in Pete's mother's house in case she comes home soon, when the Walter Phillips walked in. They have been in Texas on a visit and wanted to see the paintings. It was about three for we had been over town on an errand before that. While they were upstairs seeing the pictures I made tea and in the midst of tea Mr Paris came to return Grandpa's book on Mars he has been reading. So we had quite a nice visit. Mr Paris loves a few listeners for his tales of the old days. But by the time the Phillips had left and we took Mr Paris home it was after five so we didn't get much chance to rake or do anything outside. Went for a short drive instead.

Mr Phillips wondered if we had ever heard of " the Central Galleries " in New York. They had written him about his pictures asking if he would drop in when he was in New York. They have never been to New York so he wondered if I knew. He knows the Grand Central gallery but this seemed to be just called " the Central Galleries " Maybe Mrs. Sohler would know.

Then to-day we painted again before lunch and Verne Castella came at one to figure out some wood to attach some lights to in the living room to give better light to the paintings. Cecil Philpott came too to show him what he needed for the fixtures, then Verne went to order the wood. They are good at the lumber yard and if a truck is available will deliver it right away. They came soon but it was the wrong stuff so had to go back and get what Verne had ordered which all took time, but he worked on something else in the meantime. I decided to shine the copper kettles and sit in the sun, and got three done when Tilley Moffat arrived, she is just back from Honolulu and wanted to tell us all about it. I was just making tea when Galdys and Noel Gardiner came, they have been in Jasper all winter. So with Verne there were six of us for tea. We had a good time. Verne went back to his work and then Tilley had to go and it was nearly six when the Gardiners left. It was still so nice out that we took a ride up the West road to see where they are slashing for the new Trans Canada Highway. We are so afraid they will ruin the present road which is a favorite of all of us along the 3 lakes.

And now to answer some of your letters I may have missed out on.

You know I did remember your wedding anniversary March first and then when I thought of mentioning it I began to think it was on the 4th of March and now I realize it was the twins birthday on the 4th. I am so poor remembering dates, can never remember Pete's birthday without a great effort and looking it up.

I see that Rusty is to be with you three weeks, that seems a nice long vacation. The kids here get just ten days, from to-morrow until a week from Monday.

Have you been to the Art exhibit at the Concord Library? Seems funny you have had no birds this winter, we haven't had many feeding but think they liked the cones on the spruce trees so much they preferred them to crumbs. We had an unusual amount of cones, I raked up a whole wheelbarrowfull under one spruce tree and you know how tiny the cones of spruce are. We have a couple of magpies building a nest in an aspen tree where we can see it from the back of the house. Pete noticed one bird with a huge stick put it into a treetop and a few days later we saw the start of a nest. It is really big now. all big sticks and about 4 feet high and 2 feet across.

About the Campbell pictures. Did you want them back to put in the book? If so I can send them back, the black and white ones I mean. I mean't to send you a recent letter from them, will look it up.

Did you want Frances and Gils notes and cards & letters back? Wasn't it interesting that Hannah Higgins was there and also the Websters.

How was Mrs Wayman's book on Cardinal O'Connell? I would be more interested in the one on Mr Dumaine knowing the family. Actually I don't get much time for reading, we go to bed early and are busy all day.

It is bedtime so all for now.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Am enclosing Gray's letter - you can return it after Cousin Bert has read it. Think he will enjoy it too. The Bules baby started coming when they were snowed in & I think was finally born in some ones house on the way to the hospital at Pincher Creek. The same night triplets were born to a family living in a trailer at Pincher.

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. April 10, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Easter morning but it doesn't look too much like one. We had such lovely spring weather last week, especially Wednesday and Thursday, then it was windy Friday and yesterday rained off and on most of the day, was mild but turned to snow in the night so we woke this morning to find 2 inches of wet snow and it looks as if it would take all day to melt as the sun is not out except momentarily. A little hard on the spring bonnets!

Haven't done anything much the last few days. Good Friday is always a holiday here and a lot of Calgary people drove up for the long weekend, I expect because of the springlike weather, and poor things not much to do when it rained yesterday. And too mild for the skiing to be good for the young ones.

Friday Thursday Verne was here fixing a board for our new lights to be attached to in the living room and Barbara was over, forget who else. Friday Sam was working in the shop and came over just before lunch, he had had a late breakfast but I guess the baked ham we had smelt good, anyway he stayed. I forgot Nick Morant arrived on the train which we met that ~~some~~ morning and the train was late as well so it was a rather late lunch we had.

Then yesterday Saturday was the usual tidying up the house and errands for the weekend. The Grocery stores decided to stay closed this winter on Mondays as it was always a slow day, then the other stores thought Wednesday afternoon better so closed then, with the result neither Monday nor Wednesday is good for shoppers. The worst of it is planning enough for Sat. Sun and Mon every week. We went to a funeral too yesterday afternoon. Verne was here at ten in the morning and then back for an hour in the afternoon to finish a railing on the back stair case. and Susan Mather came in about 4 o'clock to return a book and say hello. She had to go to a French lesson as she is being tutored during her vacation as she has departmental exams to take this spring, like Rusty and his college boards. How did he do in the ones he took? I didn't realize some could be taken so early, but Susan has a friend who's father is in business in Calgary, an American girl and she is worried as she wants to get into Smith college. Then last night I mounted slides while listening to a hockey game. Oh yes we had Vic Ball after lunch, ~~up~~ from Calgary, and Steam Watt to turn on Pete's Mother's water, got everything set and found it was frozen at the government end so now we will have to wait until Tuesday when he can come again.

~~decided~~ To-day has been funny for we were up early, then Pete ~~decided~~ to make some prints from a negative Nick lent us which we did, As it was getting sunny out we thought to get some

air up the West road and see how much slashing they had done on the new road. It was lovely and sunny up that way and pretty cloud effects, Then we thought to have an early lunch and were just getting under way when the Prossers came to call after their late breakfast. and they stayed about an hour so instead of eating at noon we ate at 1.30. Then went to see what time Nick wanted us to take them ~~at~~ to the station and by then it was cold and raw out and snow flurries. The other snow has melted where the sun hit, Actually it is typical spring weather. The river is opening up., a good sign of spring.

This is a heck of a letter so far, all interrupted and we have been trying to find a film we can't remember seeing for two years, oh well maybe it will turn up if I spring clean!

We had such a nice Easter letter and lovely card of Cezanne's from Mercelia. It was good of her to write and also to take the trouble to mark another Water color Exhibit program thing. Nice to hear about the pictures and what they were like. and the John Marin ones. I shall be writing her soon I hope for we did enjoy her letter so much and hearing about you and Rusty as well.

You spoke of the Mayflowers near the pool, Are they real ones? the kind one used to buy on the streets in Boston that smelt so sweet. It must be nice having Hanne to walk with you in the garden now it is spring.

What a shame David Newbury broke his leg skiing, Is it the kind they put in a walking east so he can get about easily? Quite a lot break their legs here too.

My paintings aren't coming along too well, are still in the stage of being scraped out, but you shall have one if I can get one finished soon.

I must get supper ready now for Nick and Willi who will just have time to eat a bite before their train. We pick them up at quarter to five and they leave an hour later.

Loads of love and will send this with the letters I didn't get away before.

Catharine

P.S. It's now Tuesday. missed mailing this Sunday as the ~~Prossers came~~ the Morgans went on 2nd train which doesn't carry mail. Then yesterday just as we were leaving Mr Lonsdale came to tell us that Ted Paris had died. He is Cyril's younger brother. So we went over to Cyril & George the fathers & I forgot your letter to mail & in the afternoon Mr Lonsdale was here as usual with his paintings & for tea & we missed the mail train. So I'll send this Air Mail & the letters to return in the other envelope.

Banff, Alberta.

Friday, April 15, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Haven't had a chance to write an uninterrupted letter for ages, but Pete is painting upstairs and we were up early this A.M. No use my starting as to-morrow is Saturday and that is the one day I go through the house and change sheets etc. and then Sunday is unpredictable and Monday the men come to change our furnace to gas.

Next week will be a busy one for us, Gottke the furnace man is to dismantle the old oil furnace and set up the new more compact one temporarily, then he has men to build a 6 inch platform for the new one to sit on so that when the water comes into the basement it won't touch the furnace, after that is dry they will move it onto the platform but we won't be without heat in the house. Steam Watt is to come to do the Gas connections and also turn on the water in Mom's house then the Gas men will come to install the gas meter, and the electrician to do the controls and finish the new lights in the front room, and Ules LaCasse is to start Monday washing down the outside walls ^{and house} so we can put on a coat of something, and Verne is to be here in case we need any cutting done, so I expect the yard will be full of cars! We thought it easier to have everything done at once. Mrs Powell will probably come to clean Mom's house for she is coming home the end of the month we expect, Her brother's wife has been ill so won't be coming with her but one of the Granddaughters with the baby will come from Vancouver so that will be a great help. Don't know how long she will stay but we will see how it all works out.

This has been a very upset week for us. Monday Mr Lonsdale came down about eleven to tell us of Ted Paris dying so suddenly, maybe I told you, he shot himself and it is all very sad. His wife is almost a mental case, nothing really wrong with her but he gave into her and her mother so much that he couldn't do a thing. We blame the mother ^{and I can't} think of her as anything but an old fashioned witch that has cast a spell on her daughter and ~~his~~ ^{her} husband. Major Jennings was superintendent of the park for several years and they all liked him but didn't feel the same about ~~her~~ ^{him}, and he finally died of a heart attack and no one surprised. Poor Ted he had a most unhappy time and yet was devoted and loyal to his wife, she wouldn't let him out of her sight hardly and his sister-in-law Ivy Paris ran his store for him, he rarely could get there himself. He would ask people's advice and they went to all sorts of doctors to try and cure his wife Kay Jennings but he could never carry out what the doctor's advised or his friends. It was indeed a sad case.

Pete was brought up with the Paris family, Cyril being his best friend and so we went right over on Monday and again to see George the father in the afternoon, and I did the shopping for food as well. Maybe that was Tuesday, for George and his daughter who was luckily up from Calgary over the weekend came over here Tuesday afternoon for tea and then Wednesday was the funeral

If you can make head or tail out of the above
2 paragraphs you are doing well

Jonny was over Tuesday evening and later Barbara while we were trying to listen to a hockey game so didn't get much done that night and then Wednesday afternoon after the funeral we waited and took George and Georgie out for a bit of air about 5 O'clock. Mr Paris is really quite wonderful about it all but then perhaps an older person doesn't take it all in as quickly. They wanted us to come over that night to Cyriale and Mary Paris's for supper which we did. Everyone is so good here about taking in food, They had a big cold ham and a turkey and potatoe salad and a green salad and a wonderful pudding. All the Parises were there and Syd Worts and Ethel Knight and an Edward Young or Edmund. He used to live here as a boy. Quite a lot of us but I think we helped a bit as they were sort of talked out and we added a new interest so to speak. We all had a nice time and came home about 10.30 but were tired yesterday.

It was sort of a strain and all the comings and going and things to think about. Mr Lonsdale was also in Wednesday between the drive and going to supper. He had been out and painted his first outdoor sketch and was so thrilled over it. His hands stiff with cold but he full of excitement. It really is sunny, for when I first came to Banff he was a rather stiff United Church minister and a bit stern. He evidently has always wanted to paint but never knew quite how to start and is soon to retire and his wife was worried about what he would do with his spare time, she needn't worry now. His sketch was surprisingly good and showed he had learned a lot from Pete during the winter.

I think that book you mentioned "the Overloaded Ark" by Gerald M. Durrell sounds very good, it would be just fine for my birthday. Have you read "Royal Chef" by Gabriel Tschumi? it is about a chef for the Royal Family for many years. I will send it to you if you haven't seen it for think you would enjoy it. *Paul Budis sounds*

good too
We were interested in Louisa Manieere's letters, and it is funny but I must inherit impulses from you, for right away I thought how nice it would be to send her something towards her trip, even if I have never met her I have heard a lot of fine things about her and also feel she deserves the best one can do for her. Then of course I realized she had left by the time I read the letter and no address. Then I read the second letter and knew you had sent her something. I do think it is fun to help in unexpected ways like that and most people really appreciate it and in turn help others in some way. Just a bit extra makes so much difference.

If you have been able to get the books on the early west and the Indians we wrote about, I think Cousin Bert would be awfully interested in looking at them and reading them as he knows most of the places in Montana etc. So lend them to him first, before mailing them to us.

What a storm they had on the Cape, and so late in the year. I must write Miss Cooke seeing she was so concerned when she heard we had a bad storm in Canada.

We give our London News to the Simpsons as they find the people enjoy looking at them in the summer and usually have never seen them. How would they be for the Veterans hospital in Bedford? or wherever it is near you, the one Madie Battrick is interested in.

We sent for the Churchill special copy too should be very interesting.

That was a lovely long letter from you, It is nice that Hanne can go and see Mrs Loring and Miss Barret for you and as I am sure it cheers them up no end seeing a friend come in.

I know there are lots of clippings I must send one day but just never seem to look them out, maybe I will get a chance soon.

We are having rather nice weather but as it goes down to 20 each night, the river hasn't opened except near the foot bridge and even the lakes on the west road are not all open. There are several Canada Geese quite near the road. Three Moose went through our yard the other day right by the back of the house, such ungainly animals.

Must go now, have just helped Pete put a frame on one of the paintings, he has six small ones done.

Loads of love,

Catherine

When are Russ & Kitty coming back?

only envelope I could find.

Banff, Alta.

Mon. April 18, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Hard to realize it will be the 19th of April to-morrow, somehow it never seems like it in Banff, especially as to-day it is snowing and the wind from the east, not too serious a storm by the looks as it is 30 above now.

We thought they would start to change furnaces this morning but Ted Gottke came Saturday and asked if 10A.M. Tuesday would be O.K. now with snow we are wondering if it would be wiser to put it off until next week. Have had the electrician and Steam Watt the plumber (who at least is turning on Mom's water) and now Verne who was to do a bit of carpentering, is here. and we still have the Gas men to install a meter to come. It's been sort of an interrupted morning so far.

Saturday was fairly busy as usual, Eldon was down on business and later Jim Simpson to see how the pictures were coming on, and Little Jim about our old furnace thinking he had a purchaser, in the meantime I gave a Danish girl a ride home and got stuck having her show ~~me~~ the house. Then in the afternoon Susan Mather was over and later Cyril Paris and Syd Worts, the bank manager and they stayed to tea. I had been to the Anglican Church tea and gotten a big cake and nut bread and cookies.

Yesterday we woke to find an inch of fresh snow but it soon went when the sun came out. We went up to Norquay to finish a roll of film we want to develop and that took the rest of the morning, then dinner and went for the mail which took time as we ran into a number of people to visit with. About 3.30 Bill and Marjorie Jamieson came down with two English girls, one Denith who is the daughter of Marjorie's boss when she worked in England and who now has a job at the Banff Springs on reservations, a very bright sort of girl and capable looking. The other Maisie Kelly a friend of Marjorie's brother who is still in England. She was most interesting being a "continuity Girl" for the movies. Her job to keep track of what the actors were doing when they stop a scene so when they start the next shot it will go on from there, whether they were sitting with their legs crossed or had the top button on their coat done up etc. She used to have her own Movie company with six others until Arthur Rank took over most of the studios and now she works for others. She has just been in Hollywood for 3 months working on a big picture of the building of the Pyramids in Egypt. Was in Egypt all during the filming. In fact has been in all parts of the world and recently in Africa. She is just a small efficient sort of person and fun to talk with. They were here until after six, quite a strenuous visit for us as they were interested in everything.

We were sure you wrote several weeks ago that the Jenny's were coming to Banff so perhaps you just forgot they had told you. I guess that they had hoped to stop off in Lake Louise on their way, to see the lake and if they are coming soon there might not be any cars there to take them the 3 miles up the hill to the lake and then to Banff. I have an idea it could be arranged but not knowing when they expect to come it is a little hard to find out much. They often run trips to Lake Louise and back from Banff by car, but it depends on what time of year it is. and sometimes the road goes to pieces in the spring in certain places and is closed. But if she writes us we can find out.

I think too that the galleries Mr Phillips wanted to know about are the Grand Central Galleries, I never heard of any others. thanks for finding out what you could.

What fun Gale must have had fishing in Florida, too bad she had ear trouble but nice she could stay over a few days longer so Russ and Kitty could have the fun of her all to themselves. You must keep on the lookout for her picture! Thanks so much for letting us read the fine letters.

You have had warm weather, we haven't as yet had it over 50° but it felt lovely with no wind and a warm sun for a couple of days. Sure looks wintry out right now.

Thanks so much for getting the books, we thought they would be wonderful to have and many people enjoy that kind, not too much to read and such interesting pictures, was sure Cousin Bert would like them too. *The Indian ones I'm thinking of.*

Thanks too for the letters from Mildred and Cousin Jane.

Guess I had better go over town now.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Things began to happen after lunch. Mrs LaCasse came to wash the outside walls. It's about 34° at now. Then Mrs Painter for a book - was looking at the paintings & Norman Luetken came & then the Gas man to install the meter. Now I must go to do a few errands soon.

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, April 24, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Haven't written at all this week for it has been a busy one for us in several ways, funny weather though not unusual for this time of year. Every morning since last Sunday we have ~~aw~~ awakened to see it snowing or else an inch of fresh snow on the ground. It would then warm up to 35 or 40 and melt during the day only to snow again during the night or early next day. Like spring showers in the form of snow, some sun but not really warm. However we can't complain for a storm which dumped 15 inches of snow on Calgary Tuesday and 18 inches at Exshaw (which is just as you come into the mountains) and even 6 inches at Canmore, 16 miles east, left us with only 2 or 3 inches which soon melted.

That was Tuesday the day the furnace men were due from Calgary to dismantle our old furnace and put up the new one temporarily. We didn't know if they would come or not when we heard on the radio of ~~about~~ a foot of snow in Calgary. Steam Watt the plumber came about ten fifteen and they hadn't arrived, he said he had to go to Canmore for a small job that afternoon but would be back by 4 O'clock. Cecil the electrician also came, and no sooner had Watt left us than the truck with two of the men arrived and soon after Ted Gottke who is the heating engineer and directing the whole thing. they started right in to work. ~~Then after lunch~~ We kept the fireplace and kitchen garbage burner going all day for we had no heat for a time. Ules came in the afternoon to go on washing the logs outside, he has done all but the dormers, in spite of the snow most mornings. I think only one day we could work all day.

Steam Watt never did get back until supper time to connect the gas so we told him as the house was still quite warm to wait until next morning to do that when Ted would be here. The two men and the truck returned to Calgary that same night but Ted stayed over. Cyril was in at Tea time and Sam was in and out and Verne came down to see if we needed him. It seemed to be a continual coming and going. I cleaned out a cupboard a day in the mornings, the china ones over the sink Tuesday as we were up very early that morning, the ones underneath and the drawers the next day and Thursday the ones around the stove, and Friday the bottom of the Welsh dresser, so did get something done. Then spent a good deal of time trying to find the right kind of cleaner for Ules that he ran out of etc. as well as the usual errands.

We were warm enough Tuesday night with only the fireplace and stove as the house was not chilled off. Had Steam not been delayed we would have had gravity heat from the gas furnace that night but he came early Wednesday with Ted and they connected it up, Cecil too to wire the thing. Then Earl Jensen came to put in the forms for the concrete slab the new furnace is to sit on so it will be above any water we get into the basement from seepage when the river is high.

Max Shhnieder and four men appeared after lunch on Wednesday with a small cement mixer on a truck and while I was doing dishes they mixed enough cement and carried it downstairs to make the slab, a most efficient job. After they had gone Pete and Earl took over and chinked or cawled the cracks in the floor which had been under the old furnace where they couldn't get at them before. I washed the windows downstairs where Ules had dripped the Dic-a-do cleaner as it was nice outside. Had just gotten around to the front when Mr Lonsdale the United Church Minister came in to see how we were making out, down into the basement he went, and I started again and Jimmy Simpson arrived, He too vanished into the cellar, by then it was time for tea so I made that only to find Jimmy had gone but Mr Lonsdale seemed to enjoy being in on the fun. We have had some rather jolly tea parties with Ules liking his cups and a smoke, as it is cold to be scrubbing logs, and Earl Jensen being glad to get off his knees in the hot basement.

Thursday was a quiet day so the cement could set. We were busy all day, I forget just what, more cupboards for me and I think I helped Pete frame a picture and Ules was here, We also went to the train thinking that Maisie Kelly was to leave but found out it was Friday she was to go, we also had Patsy MacKenzie and a friend from the Laurentians, Wally Crocket in and then a rather late supper and hoped for a quiet evening but Herb, his wife Ivy, and Zona Paris came in and stayed until after ten. It was a nice visit but we knew the next day was to be a busy one with the men from Calgary again to set up the furnace permanently and join up the duct work.

We were up real early Friday and they came soon after nine. Ted Gottke too, Cecil to wire and Steam to connect the gas and there was pounding and whatnot going on all day. We knew Cis Ward had been sick so after cleaning out a few cupboards in the Welsh Dresser I went to ask Sam, working at the Homestead and he asked if I would go up to see how sick I thought she was, he left the door open so said "Walk in", I did and nearly scared her to death for she was up and dressed in the kitchen and didn't hear me call. She felt better but her cough is bad, then back to Sam and ran into Mrs Lloyd who brought the couple from China over here several weeks ago, and from then on it was a rush all day, had barely finished the lunch dishes when Maisie Kelly came to say good-bye and we showed her some slides of Indians in the viewer until it was time to get tea for the men and just as we had it ready they started bringing up the old furnace which is the heaviest thing and barely will go through the doorways. Steam engineered that. Ules and Maisie and I started tea, then Cecil and Pete, then Cecil and Steam came and they had just finished when the two Calgary lads came in, Pete said when they came downstairs again they said "Ted, guess where we were, at a real tea party, that never happened in Calgary" Then Ted and Cecil arrived for theirs, Maisie is the kind to enjoy things and she got quite a kick out of it. I took her home and had just gotten back when Linnie Becker came to show us her scrap book on Norway, so I hurriedly glanced at that for it was near train time so Linnie and I went to see Maisie off with the Jamiesons. Linnie was all excited to find that when the picture of the building of the Pyramids comes out Maisie's name will be listed as one of those making it. It was quite a day.

Must go now for the mail.
Thanks for your wonderful long letter written on

the 19th.

Yours of love

Korea

2 Books came to Davidson's

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. April 26, 1955

Dearest Mother,

It is snowing hard this morning, a storm from the south much like a week ago. In fact most every morning for the last week we have ~~women~~ to find snow on the ground or coming down. Since they started putting the furnace in a week ago we have been sort of off schedule but to-day Pete is painting again and no men around.

The end of the week was awfully hectic. especially Friday when the men moved the new furnace onto the new concrete block in the basement and set it up permanently, they arrived about 9 from Calgary and worked all day, Steam coming to connect the gas and Cecil Philpott to do the wiring. Before I had cleaned up from the lunch dishes Maisie Kelly dropped in and I showed her as many of our slides as possible of Indians and scenery in the viewer. She is a great talker and so interesting telling us about a show that a Sheik in Egypt put on for their moving picture group and the dancing Arab horses and what the inside of the tents were like etc. Seems that when they were talking of Canada the Sheik told them that the most beautiful spot he thought was Banff and Lake Louise. Evidently a well travelled man. She was Continuity girl on the picture of the making of the pyramids. About 3.30 I made tea and she seemed to enjoy it with the men coming and going, then I took her back and no sooner got home than Linnie Becker arrived from school to show us a book she is working on about Norway. Found her a few things like a flag to copy and then she went to the train with me to see Maisie off. After Pete hadn't gotten out all day so we drove Linnie home about five thirty and then went for a bit of a ride for the air, which made supper a bit late and while eating that Mary Simpson and her mother dropped in. Mary is just back from Omaha and full of her winter, wanted to see the paintings and of course we talked a lot and it was nine when they left and we had all the tea dishes and supper dishes still to do. Were a bit tired Saturday morning and Cecil came at 8 to fix the lights in the living room. Took him all morning to do that and some downstairs.

I cleaned Saturday as usual but not too well, it was snowing *Did the weekend shopping* hard though let up in the late afternoon. There was a food sale at one of the churches and just as I went Syd and Evelyn Worts came to see how the paintings were coming along, they were still here when I hurried back but didn't stay for tea, As they went Willi Morant arrived and later Nick. Just back from a trip east, so they helped eat the cake I had just gotten at the sale. They were here until nearly supper time. We were glad of a quiet evening.

Sunday was cold and clearing, a few snow squalls. Nick wanted help in getting some pictures of the ~~the~~ new Streamlined trains the first one from the west was to come in Monday and the one from the east arrives to-day. Pete wanted to find a good spot to take it at the station so we set out and as it happened took the last number 2 from the west as it came in, for they are to use the numbers on the new train after this. # 1 and # 2 will be The Canadian.

We didn't find a good spot because of so many wires and what not but spent most of the morning outdoors. When we got back Pete thought Nick and Willi had been here because of the tracks in the driveway so we didn't go far all afternoon expecting them back. We did go for the mail and I did get a couple of letters written but otherwise didn't do much, just as well for one quiet day.

Monday, yesterday I washed and Pete changed one thing on one picture, then Nick came to see if we would take pictures up near Lake Louise for him, he was going to another spot and Willi would be set up somewhere else to get the first "Canadian" from the west. We had thought the station would be more interesting with the people but as Nick seemed anxious for the others we said we would go there. It was a lovely clear morning but clouded over with snow flurries later. Jeff Staples also came to see us in the morning and Dr MacKenzie to see Pete paint, wants to watch him put the paint on, but it was too confusing yesterday. We dashed out to do errands etc. and then just as we finished lunch Ules arrived to finish the dormers and I made tea to take and Pete had all the camera stuff picked out and off we went about 1.30 not knowing how good the road would be and the train was due to pass our point at 3.15. We got all set up, Pete to take black and white and I color in the Leica. Pete should have used a Leica for he could have taken a series of pictures but Nick wanted the larger film size for his purposes. There were only two section men working below us on the track and they shouted when the train first whistled, were quite interested in our efforts. We took our pictures and the train did look nice, all silver and streamlined and with two dome cars and the people waved. Then we started home, stopping only to take some sheep to finish up my roll. Hadn't been home more than a few minutes when Barbara Whyte called in to see the paintings, she had been to the station when the train arrived, said she had never seen so many people out to see it. We were ~~sxx~~ sorry we didn't stay here for one could get the pictures we took any day whereas the crowd would only come out the first day.

After she left we went to the Morants with the film, they hadn't returned as yet but we met them later and Nick said to come up about 8.30 and he would have developed the black and whites. So we had supper and I did the ironing and we changed our clothes and up we went. Willi was the only one who got successful pictures. The holders that Nick used had let in light and for some reason Pete's camera had moved and his were a tiny bit out of focus, everything else O.K. However we had a pleasant evening and met a Mr Simonds I think his name is. He is here working on Walt Disney pictures, has rented the house next to the Morants. He used to be a ranger in Yellowstone in 1934 and 1935 and thinks he remembers Bert and Alma Newbury in the store at Mammoth. Thinks Cousin Bert measured him for his ranger suit. He seems a very likeable sort. He sorts of directs the nature movies and sees that they don't make mistakes. Said in the Beaver Valley mixt picture there were so many biological errors but in the one of the prairies there is only one bad mistake. They are making one of the north now and he will be in Banff for quite a while. Comes from Moran I think in Wyoming.

Here I mean't to write to answer all your nice letters and have just rattled off what we have been doing. The book on Korea came and the one of Jo Davidson which Mrs Simpson has already borrowed. I forgot that Pete met Elizabeth Keith in China. The Ford book came too and the Studios, I liked the Swiss paintings in one copy so much.

*Loads of love in another rush
Catharine.*

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. April 28, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We have had the darndest weather in April, though I don't think it is unusual to have snow flurries at this time of year, but every morning for the last two weeks it seems as if we woke to find snow on the ground or in the air and though the sun is out just now it was dark and snowing hard only a few minutes ago. It seems hard to get things done, I had hoped to clean the kitchen this week but when it is drak and gloomy one doesn't seem to make the same headway and here I am writing letters instead of cleaning logs.

X We just had a wire from Lila, Pete's sister at the coast, and Marain, her daughter, and little baby are coming with Mom and they expect to get here Sunday afternoon, It is nearly a year since Mom left for the coast and she is anxious to get back into her own home, though how it will work out I don't know. other times she has been home about a month and then gotten sick and landed in the hospital so hope it doesn't happen like that again, It seems so hard to find anyone she approves of to stay with her, she wants to be alone.

X It must be just a year ago that Jean died, last spring was such a mixed up one for us going back and forth to Edmonton and the rest of the year has rushed by, hardly seems possible so many months have passed. Am so glad you have Hanne with you for it must have seemed empty in the front of the house, and so nice that she can walk in the garden with you and be right near when you need her.

What fun it was that Gale could be with you for the weekend, We are so interested in her trip to Europe and what a wonderful experience for her to study in Geneva, I remember it well, a lovely city and not too large, I can still taste the delicious hot chocolate and fresh rolls with fresh butter we had for breakfast sitting in the sun the morning we arrived from the Dutch East Indies where it had been so tropical and humid and hot. The air in Geneva was so fresh and good and made us feel all set up, the best breakfast I ever tasted.

Mildred will be with you now which is nice, She must have had fun in New York and glad the weather seemed nice.

Had a busy day yesterday especially in the afternoon. Pete had a dentist appointment at nine and then we shopped, he came back to paint and I did a bit of cleaning, then we went to the P.O. and bank after lunch and to see how Cis Ward was. She still has an awful cough and lying down, Sam not feeling too well either, it was a miserable bug they got. Then home and Mr Lonsdale came as we were away Monday and Pete Haskins soon after. He has only just arrived from England to be with his aunt Mrs Greenham who had the private school here that Jean Lindsay went to. Peteris a nephew and one of the evacue children who was here during the war we knew him then and he has always written to us. Are invited up to Mrs Greenhams Sunday to a buffet supper. We had tea and then Barbara came as well

so there was much talk and 5.30 when she left. the others going sooner. Bubby is coming home for a short vacation Monday, she went to the coast last fall for her "internship" in the General Hospital in Vancouver, where she will get her degree in Home Economics.

We then went for a short ride before supper and had a quiet evening. Today Pete has been working on the last four paintings and I cleaned one part of the kitchen, but seem to be slowed down by the dull weather and snow in the air. Maybe I will do better to-morrow. Mrs Powell is rushing about cleaning up Mom's house this afternoon and is coming again to-morrow which is just lucky we could get her.

Tuesday we tried to take more pictures at the station of the first streamliner from Montreal to arrive, but it was snowing hard and a miserable day.

Had such a fine letter from Cousin Bert yesterday, it was so interesting we are going to put it in the Jackson book when it comes. There is no hurry in sending the books if anyone like Ebbs or Frances want to look at them first. They are books we want to have for reference and to lend too. It's funny but when Mrs Simpson saw the book she asked if Jackson Hole wasn't named after the photographer and Cousin Bert thinks so too.

This isn't an answer to your letters as I had intended but we are going out soon.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Nick Morant told us a traveling salesman's story the other day. Seems the salesman was traveling on a sleeper and was awfully sleepy when he got up and went into the men's wash room. He looked down at his feet and found he had one black shoe and one brown shoe on, he scratched his head and the porter came along, so he said to him, "Porter, have you ever seen anything like that, one black shoe and one brown?" The Porter thought a minute and then replied, "Yes, sir, I have" a long pause, "seems to me a man got off the train at Brandon several hours ago and he was wearing one black shoe and one brown!"

Banff, Alta.
Tues. May 3, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Guess you are wondering why I haven't written before now, but there just hasn't been time to sit down long enough. Did I tell you ^{on} Thursday we had a wire from Lila, Pete's sister at the coast, that Mom and Marian were coming on the new train Sunday, so we got Mrs Powell busy cleaning the house to have it all ready for them, She was there all Thursday afternoon. Just as we were going to have supper that night, ^{Young} Cliff came to the door and said he had sad news for us, I thought of his father, but it was Mom. She had died suddenly that afternoon.

Seems she went down town to do some last minute shopping in the Hudson's Bay, was buying rope for her trunk in the basement and evidently dropped dead, the nurse was called and they got the inhalator etc. but she had gone. Mavis, one granddaughter works in the children's Dept. and Marian and her husband were in the store at the same time but none of them knew anything about it. It must have been an awful shock to them, rather hard for us to realize as it is nearly a year since she left Banff, but nice to think she was so happy about coming home.

From then on we have been busy as you may imagine, We had our supper while Cliff went to tell Jackie, then we went up as it was necessary to get an undertaker ~~in~~ from this end to contact one in Vancouver, Jackie and Florence had both gone all to pieces which didn't make it any easier, However he was sure Mom would have wanted Gooder Brothers to do it, ~~but~~ but Pete thought it would be far easier to have the local ones handle it and make arrangements. So we went up to see Syd Vallance as we knew he had made out her Will, he thought Gooder Bros. best too, so back to Jackie to say Syd would telephone Calgary, Jackie hasn't a phone and neither have we. So Syd did that and we waited until ten for a message back ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ at the Vallances. As no word came he said he would come down as soon as Mr Gooder called him in the morning.

So Friday I ran around telling close friends and seeing if Mrs Powell would come that afternoon to finish the house etc. she had definite wishes of ~~wanted to be buried~~ wanting a house funeral and Eastern Star service. Jackie and Florence were down early and Billy Alexander about the service and in fact a continual lot of people all that day and Saturday and Sunday as well. Everyone was very good about helping. But what with seeing people and they coming here it was a busy time. ~~Having~~ it all happen at the coast complicated things and as she died in a store the police wouldn't release the body until all was O.K. the doctors papers saying it was heart didn't help as he hadn't seen her for so long and they had to have an autopsy etc. ~~xxxxxxx~~ It was settled for Marian to come anyway as planned as Lila didn't feel she could, and she had to go through to Calgary with the body. Such a lot of planning and figuring and Jackie was more nuisance than help really so it all fell on us and young Cliff.

Jackie was sure the Will was in "a box on the north wall in Mom's house." so Syd hunted with us through the house for a couple of hours Friday afternoon and we could find no Will. so we went back to his house and telephoned Vacnouver and it was there, Mom had taken it with her and they hadn't thought to mention it!

Then Saturday afternoon when we might have had some time, Jackie came down for the white Start dress that Mom wanted to be buried in. One she had worn as Chaplain of the Star for 26 years. Marian had told us she would come on Sunday as planned but Jackie insisted ~~it~~ it was Saturday afternoon as he had telephoned Lila that morning, and so we were afraid the plans had been changed and all went to the train, as the dress was to be given to Marian to be handed to Mrs Gooder. Of course she wasn't on the train that day, Jackie had gotten mixed up. and another afternoon spent.

Sunday she did come ~~through~~ through and we had a hurried five minutes

will tell you more later. The funeral was Monday & every thing went well & we had 40 for tea including three Indians.

Loads of love

Catharine.

P.S. Got your letter about the rain, you have had a lot. we too had bad weather 2 weeks ago.

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, May 8, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

There just hasn't been a chance to write this last week but maybe to-night I can. Either someone is coming or going or just being here, Marian has had her lunch and suppers with us but sleeping up at Mom's house which she has been busy cleaning out. At least deciding on who should have what. She goes to-day.

I have been helping her every day, go up after breakfast and even some evenings. Now Bubby is here and Jonny so will just send this along so you will know we are O.K.

This is hardly worth 7¢ -
Loads of love
Catherine.

Banff Alta.
Mon. May 9, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

First thing I want to do is write you a decent letter. Seems I am a good 11 days behind in most everything including such things as cleaning out the frig. and it is even hard to know where to start telling you about everything! Such a lot of things to see about and people coming and going and notes to write etc.

It was a week ago Thursday that we were getting the house ready for Pete's mother, Mrs Powell cleaning and we expected her Sunday with her oldest granddaughter Marian coming from the coast with her. That evening we got the news that she had died suddenly while shopping in the Hudson's Bay store in Vancouver. Marian and her husband Doug, were in the store at the time and Mavis works there, but of course none of them knew a thing about it. Mom had gone out of their house joking and went down town alone for last minute shopping and I expect she was doing a little too much and excited to be coming home and that may have caused her heart attack. a wonderful way to go so suddenly when she was happy but an awful shock to them in Vancouver.

There was lots of arranging to do and with Lila the daughter in Vancouver, the undertaker from Calgary and neither Jackie or Pete with phones, messages had to be sent back and forth but in the end it all went well.

I think I told you about Friday, then Saturday there was lots to do and Mary Simpson kindly offered to clean up the yard and Kenneth Campbell came to help tidy a pile of cement blocks we had dumped at the back of Mom's house from the store, she hated a mess so he cleaned that up, ~~empt~~ Then as we had just finished lunch I made him another meal he had been so good about it. Is a cousin of Pete's. There were all sorts of people coming and going too.

Then Sunday we got up about 6.30 and while Pete cleaned the streaks off our downstairs windows left by Ules LeCasse washing the house, I waxed the kitchen floor. Pete helped first to wash it for I had been in the midst of housecleaning that week and left the floor longer than usual and it had no finish on it at all and expecting lots of people in we thought we should tidy up our house a bit. Moved all the unread magazines and odd books and my painting things etc. upstairs so they could all find a place to sit when they came to tea after the funeral. result we can't find anything now. It is somewhere upstairs and in it's place odd things like pictures, violins, sleigh bells, old photographs we have promised to store for Cliff, odd antiques are piled in their place in the front room? Edmee came down Sunday night I think it was.

Marian came ~~axplanned~~ Sunday on the same train as planned but had to go through to Calgary with Mom, Mr Gooder the undertaker meeting her, Then she took the early train up Monday morning. That was a day, Met her at 9.30 and brought her to our house, cooked her bacon and eggs as she hadn't had time for breakfast. Then

she spoke of her brother David going through to the coast from Toronto on his holidays, Pete checked the timetable and we figured he might go through that morning, the Stockands aren't noted for planning ahead or thinking of things in time. So down Marian and I went to the station and sure enough he came in on the train from the east at 10.45. We spoke to the conductor and they arranged for him to get off the train in Banff and stay over for the funeral which made it nicer for Marian having her brother here. They were both here for lunch with us, were just washing up when three Indians arrived, George McLean, with a wonderful cap on, a sort of animals tale hanging over the side and just fastened on the top of the cap, the kind with a small visor. Wish you could have seen him telling us that he wore it to show he was an individual and a man of nature, the tale bobbing over one eye. Jonny Bearspaw and a young Indian artist, Frank Kaquits was with him. Pete was anxious to ask them about the paintings and they must have been upstairs for an hour, a great help in many ways. Th

That morning I had also gotten Mrs Powell at 10.30 to be in the Mom's house and the undertakers had arrived about 11 and Mrs Powell and I had taken the cards off all the flowers and marked what they were and there were an awful lot, 50 in all. The funeral was from the house as Mom had wished. Pete was busy with people coming and Mr Gooder to plan the way the cars should line up as the Eastern Star had about 30 people in their ceremony. Jackie in the meantime had taken Marian and David around town in his car, Well it was just as easy doing things at the house with Mrs Powell, Sam Ward helped figure how to arrange things too and took off doors and all in all everyone helped.

Luckily the funeral wasn't until 3 o'clock for the Calgary relatives arrived after lunch and the Indians finally left Pete and it was time to go up to the house. Mr Lonsdale conducted the services, the house just held the relatives and close friends and the others stood outside but we could all hear him. Then at the cemetery he did the first part, then the Eastern Star had quite a service, something like a Masonic funeral, each of 5 ladies reciting something and dropping a different colored flower into the grave, and then a prayer etc. and all the members walked around and placed a bit of fern on the coffin. But the nicest part of all was the Indians. There were three older ones. Tom Powderface gave a little talk, or said a few words, then John Hunter said a prayer in Stoney and then with George McLean they all sang a hymn in Stoney, "In the sweet bye and bye" Mr Lonsdale thought it was. They did it with their own kind of harmony and several people have spoken of how beautifully they did it keeping in perfect tune. Mr Gainer said he never knew of 3 white people who could do it and all over 70.

We had asked the relations and pallbearers and their wives to tea afterwards and they all came, Earl Moore and Edmee said they would help and they made the tea, replenished the plates and washed cups. Cis Ward passed the cream and sugar and Bev helped too and there were 40 here, most came in the beginning and all at once and they seemed to enjoy themselves. Some of the Pallbearers we have always known but they haven't been to the house or their wives and then the relatives from Calgary were also oldtimers and they hadn't seen each other for years so they really enjoyed being to-gether, the three Indians came back and sat at the kitchen table and Jimmy Simpson told stories to George McLean and Jonny and Harold got a real kick out of that as well as Cyril Paris and Syd Woots from the bank. It was all very informal

and with groups of them going upstairs to see the paintings Pete has done it left enough room for everyone to sit down and talk. I forgot only three things to do, light the fire in the fireplace and take off the board we have over it, comb my hair after taking my hat off and using up the 3 or 4 dozen cookies Mr Londdale had brought us as a present from the church tea on Saturday. We had enough to eat with ~~with~~ sandwiches Edmee brought and nut bread & cake and it was rather nice having so many of the oldtimers and then the young grandchildren and the Indians.

Marian and David went up to Bevs for supper which gave us a breather, though Edmee came in as we were finishing ours to just talk over the tea. and when Bev had supper all cooked and they were ready to sit down to eat, they found all the chairs were still over at Mom's house and the door locked!

We waited for Marian as she was to sleep here, David had to go to Barbaras but they had been out for a walk and found an old friend at the King Edward and David thought it would be fun to sleep in a hotel for once in Banff, So about 10.15 when they came down we drove him over and as Marian wanted to talk until late, as she hadn't seen David since last fall, in the end we got a room at the hotel for her too and it made it better all round for we could go to bed and still had the house to ourselves.

Tuesday we had a number of things to do as well as get David to the train. Oh . yes Cliff, Pete's brother had arrived the night before and we of course went up to see him at Bevs. and young Cliffs, they live in the old house.

This morning Charlie Bail has been here and Sam Ward and now it's time to go for food.

Lads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alta.

May 12, 1955

Dearest Mother

It's the middle of the morning but unless I start a letter to you will not have anything to mail at noon. Such a lot has been going on this past two weeks and most of the arranging has been left to us. Jackie loves to feel important and is the executor of Mom's estate but keeps putting off things, so with Marian here to pick out what they wanted at the coast, as everything in the house (except certain articles and pictures left in her Will) all the rest went to Lila to divide and Marian was acting for her as Lila didn't want to come. Jackie took Cliff who arrived from Prince Rupert Monday night, and Marian numerous rides but wouldn't come near the house to pick out what he might want, Marian finally got a few things he expressed a desire for and strangely enough everyone in the family wanted different things and quite often picked presents they themselves had given Mom. There was one awful embroidered swan, sort of by hooked rug method that Mom had made in California and we didn't know what to do with it, Florence, Jackie's 2nd. wife was thrilled to have it! and so it went. But you know what a lot there is to look over. We have a heterogeneous lot to put away down here, sometime it will be interesting in the history of Banff perhaps or to a historical society but in the meantime we will have to store it I guess. I don't mind as long as it is marked and in boxes. I am interested in things like that myself and especially the collection of old photographs.

Just a rough outline of our last 10 days.

Monday the 3rd. was the funeral etc.

Tuesday David Stockand left on the morning train and Cliff had arrived the night before from Prince Rupert, no one thought he was coming and he never let us know until it was too late to postpone the funeral but he had gone through one when Mildred died last fall so didn't mind. He was down that morning, saw Pete's pictures, went to train with Marian and David and me, then uptown where he stopped every few minutes to say hello to old friends. Marian was here for dinner and then I started with her looking through things in the basement as Jackie didn't think we should touch anything. There was the question of a list of things to go to people, but it was never found and Mom had written on each special article she wanted to go to various grandchildren. Also we wanted to take pictures of the house as it was and Pete and Marian and I did that all evening, a nice record to have.

Wednesday. Cliff was down and I took he and Marian up to Syd Vallances to see if it was all right to start sorting and dividing things, and he said to go ahead, Jackie gave us all copies of the Will later, Sam was down and Verne fixing up the boxes for camping in the Jeep, a better arrangement we have thought of, Jean Kelly and her two children were over in the morning to see the paintings, and Doris Bray in the afternoon to collect for the Cancer and stopped long enough to see the pictures too. Syd Vallance came down to look through one box of papers at Mom's in case there was a list and I went with him as Jackie had taken Cliff and Marian for a ride and supper later. So not much done that day. We had tea as Mr Lonsdale also came when Syd was here

and Verne was in for tea too. a rather busy afternoon for us. Then Johnnie Walker the Express agent was here after supper to see about renting the house of Mom's and while he was here Billy Alexander came on the same mission, Luckily we have Eldon to look after all the renting so just send them on to him but it involves a bit of a visit. Oh Yes, Nick and Willi Morant dropped in too.

Thursday, Pete tried to keep painting most mornings and did that day. Ules was back to oil the house, our logs which he had washed previously, I was up at Mom's with Marian and Cliff, and we sorted out all we could, actually had a good time as so many things reminded Cliff of stories and funny incidents. did more after lunch, Verne was back measuring things on the Jeep and Bubby arrived ~~from~~ for a holiday from Vancouver and we met her after tea, Barbara was over for that. Marian was here for supper and Nick and Willi before with the pictures I took in color of the "first Canadian" from the west. They came out alright. That evening I spent looking over little things with Marian, have lugged innumerable armfuls down to our house, some in the wheel barrow like pictures and boxes.

Friday was an even busier day, Pete was painting and Dr Atkin came to see the pictures as he has been away for a month or so, he stayed nearly an hour, Cliff came down to see him and Norman Luxton arrived, I was up at Mom's with Marian. Then Sven Hanson to see Cliff, Both Cliff and Marian were here for a steak dinner, easiest thing to have. and in the afternoon Pete had promised to take ~~the~~ seven of ~~the~~ his paintings over to the museum to be hung. We had to get screws etc. and just as we were leaving Mr Lonsdale came with a sketch he had just painted but we got over safely with the paintings piled in the back of the Jeep by 3.30 and were at the museum all the rest of the afternoon. They went up well but as yet the lights are too blinding as one looks up. We had just gotten home about 5.30 and hadn't sat down when Mary Paris arrived and stayed about half an hour. Marian was here for supper and then I drove her up to an old friends for the evening and we were free to sit down quietly, must have read the newspaper.

Saturday, my usual cleaning of the house for the weekend, and did the washing and up to Mom's and the errands overtown. Syd Vallance was down and talked to Marian and there was a food sale so got a cake and then we took some stuffed birds over to the museum that Mom had, an Owl and Hawk. I forgot, Eldon Walls was down to see the house for renting purposes and Cyril Paris was over too after lunch, Also took Marian with Mom's clothes to Mrs Powells and in the evening after supper went over to Barbaras with Marian for a while and then left her there. *even did the shopping before supper.*

Sunday, it was rainy and snow showers and we got up a little later. Marian slept in the old house and made her own breakfast which was nicer all round as she could look over papers etc. after she went to bed. I spent the morning with Cliff and Marian up at the house doing a last look around, she had all their things in the front room and we put the rest in another room and marked the furniture to go to the coast. Pete drew in a new picture and painted, Marian for dinner and then Bubby came over so she went to the Post office with us while M and Cliff went to the cemetery and soon it was time for the train as Marian went to Vancouver at 3. We came back to relax but not for long. Peggy Prosser came to tell us they were going to the Campbells for a couple of days if there was anything to send down, she made a nice call and then Norman Knight we haven't seen for some time came in

He used to be one of the skiers at Skoki and has been in Florida and Arizona the last few years working. After he left we went up to the house and brought down the garden tools etc. Then just after supper Mr Scott came, we thought for a call but really for some packing the furnace had come in, so we suggested a drive out the west road to see he slashing and he enjoyed that and we got the air.

Monday, Pete was painting and Charlie Beil came to tell us he was off on a bear hunt and stayed a while, then Sam was over, hadn't seen him as he is working at the Homestead just now. I also got the things to send to the ranch to-gether and we took them to the Prossers. After lunch and all afternoon young Cliff worked on the Jeep as there was something wrong and it kept stalling on us. Casey Oliver came to ask about a suite in the old White house and was here a while, Verne was down to work on the boxes but Jeep was gone, it was cold and rainy anyway, Then Mr Lonsdale with a new sketch and that mean't tea. and Cliff was down at supper time. I also wrote notes thanking people

Tuesday. I finished the notes, Cliff arrived and we went up to look over the rest of the things Marian didn't want and Bev came to see if there was anything she wanted and her mother, Mrs Pogue who has tiny feet and found the rubbers and overshoes useful and Barbara and Bubby were up too. Uncle Jack was down to ask us for supper yeasterday, (we didn't go) and it took all morning, Verne was back again too. Eldon down after lunch to show the Johnny Walkers over the house, and we took one more picture to the museum. Jimmy Simpson came to take out the phone between the two houses and try to fix the buzzer while little David tried to fix my garden, grabing handfulls of earth with a couple of plants at the same time, also thought it fun scattering kindling from the woodpile, kept us busy keeping an eye on him!

Then we took a drive so as to be free of callers. Barbara was over with Mrs Derrick in evening and I showed her the house of Mom's. Wednesday. I wrote a few notes, and packed away old fashioned clothes into one trunk with moth balls and carried things up from Mom's basement, Pete was painting, trying to finish the other pictures and Verne was down. Pete also went to the dentists and we did errands. Not as hectic a day, but Verne was over in the afternoon and we also went to the train at 6.30 to see David on his way back to Toronto. and Eldon was down about 5 feeling tired but to tell us the Walkers would take the house, and also about a Rotary plan to have an exhibition of pictures. Oh yes. Marjorie Crosbie was over with a book Dr Leeshman had left for us, we had missed seeing him at noon I guess.

Loads of love
Catharine

wrote Mrs Jenny in Seattle. a nice letter
from her -

Banff, Alta.

May 15, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Just a short note, Bubby has been here for Sunday dinner and in a few minutes we will go up for the mail then we rather expect the Prossers to come round, they were in Cowley for a couple of days with the Campbells on the ranch and brought us fresh eggs, fresh homemade bread and butter and a big box of crocus that Ian had picked. They looked so pretty, ours are only just out in the mountains but it is being a late spring.

Such weather, nearly every morning we wake to find a trace of snow on the ground or it is snowing and then it rains a little but no warm spring weather, the grass only a little tinge of green in sunny places. Hardly a bud on the trees and the middle of May.

I did something stupid the other day and only found out this morning in looking through things on the desk, I have a number of your letters as yet unanswered strewn through the other piles and found one not even opened. Don't know how that happened but must have been when someone came in before we had looked at the mail, sometimes we get most of it read and the pamphlets not looked at and this might have been underneath. Anyway it was the one about Rusty not ~~getting~~ passing his exams for Harvard. I sure feel for him, but don't think he should be discouraged, just shows he is twice as good at something else than passing exams. Sometimes things happen in a way that you don't see the good of until years later and perhaps he just isn't meant to go to Harvard and will be a much better man for what it is he does. He will be called up any way for the services before long and even if he didn't go to college at all it wouldn't be so terrible, he will find his real interest after a while, I expect he may be disappointed but hope he doesn't take it too hard. Is he thinking of a smaller college? for perhaps he would take to it better than a big one like Harvard anyway.

Have been busy in odd ways and lots of people dropping in and things to see to. I hope to house clean this week if nothing prevents.

Loads of love and will write a better letter soon.

Catherine

Banff, Alta.

May 20, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We have had three days of springlike weather and the buds are showing on the trees, cattails on the aspens and the river which was very low is now rising and quite muddy, the grass getting green in sunny spots, rather a late spring and last night a cold wind from the north and some rain but it is clearing now.

Spent most of this morning cleaning up the desk sorting things out and writing a business letter to Russ, Pete is working on one of the last two pictures and when they are all finished and hung in the museum we will feel free to go out on a sketching trip. I can't seem to get things done at all round the house. There is always so much to do I never get started! and there has been more than usual to see to in connection with the things in Mom's house. Verne is still working on the Jeep and then is to put up a shelf in the store room to hold the boxes we haven't time now to look over. Guess I shouldn't like old things.

Thanks so much for the letters of Fathers and his sister's. We were especially interested in the one about electric welding and the envelope with the old stamp on it. Now-a-days the whole envelope with the stamp and postmark giving the date are the most valuable. I thought it was also interesting where Marian Robb spoke of visiting a woman doctor in New York in 1897 I think it was. It was a Dr. Loring, a lady physician in N.Y. and in 1885. I didn't know there were women doctors then.

Russell wrote that Gale had been chosen May Day Queen which must be quite an honor, it is nice to think she has done so well at Briar cliff. Maybe if Rusty doesn't go to too large a college he will do well in his way. ~~Exxy~~ Have you heard what their summer plans are? Hope Rusty doesn't have to go to summer school, though it isn't too bad. Remember I took design there once and Henry Aeyes drove in with me most everyday.

I really enjoy writing to you but the last few evening we have had company or looked over boxes of photographs and some letters etc.

Mildred may be with you this weekend or Sunday I guess it is. We enjoy reading their letters that you send. Must write them as they wrote us such nice notes and Cousin Al too. I have written about 40 I guess since Mom died and a good many just cards that one signs. I never knew people sent so many cards of sympathy, it is nice to have the thought so well expressed in verse or a few lines and then one doesn't feel obliged to send more than a card in thanks, though for close friends I think a

real note nicer. Irman sent one from all the Antonangelis and then wrote a little note on it which was nice of them.

It is nearly lunch time so will send just this much.

Think your idea of an electric wheel chair quite sporting of you. There was a lady in Honolulu who had a chair large enough to hold two, side by side, and she drove it on the sidewalk very slowly and then stopped at the various stores to let her friend shop, don't know how it would work in a hilly district. but we can just picture you scooting about the garden with Hanne running after and maybe Pietro warning you to keep out of the new bed of pansies! Actually they have very light folding wheelchairs now-a-days for paraplegics who are paralyzed from the waist down. I watched a man in Edmonton drive up to the hotel by himself in a special car with hand controls, then he sort of shook the wheel chair open on to the sidewalk and got in himself, no one helped at all and he was perfectly independent. You could easily have one that folds up like the chair we gave you that is so light and if you wanted to see Sted's garden, just put it in the car and be wheeled round when you got there. A good plan to save your energy for other things than walking about and tiring yourself out. You could even use it just to sit in now and then, might be easier to wheel a chair than to carry one.

Must go. Heaps of love,

Collarise

Banff, Alta.
Sun. May 22, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We seem to be having a rather quiet holiday weekend, They said it would be sunny and warm but yesterday morning it was so dark and snowed such great big flakes (the size of silver dollars) that Pete couldn't see to paint and to-day it is still overcast and a light snow in the air all morning. Pete did work a bit this A.M. while I wrote notes. So far we haven't had many visitors which suits us fine but with so much time I can't decide which thing to tackle so thought I would just start a letter to you. I should mend a bit but will save that until sometime Pete is sitting and talking, now he is upstairs, he just came down to wash out his paint brushes so perhaps I won't get as much of an undisturbed time as I thought!

A nice letter from you written the 18th. Your day was much like some of ours, when you had a whole string of callers and then Mrs Lee to lunch and went to the tea in the afternoon and came home to find Mary with the pain in her foot. I didn't realize Arthritis hbt one so suddenly though I know certain kinds are awfully painful. Hope it is all right now.

Monday, This is as far as I got. We started to look over a box of old photographs of Mom's which she left to Cliff and which we are to store here, had them half out of the big box before supper and all spread about on card tables and then thought we could finish in the evening, Jonny came and was quite interested too and then Dr and Mrs Riley dropped in, it was a miserable evening and raining hard by then, They looked at some but of course we got them nicely mixed up passing the most interesting ones around, then Susan Mather dropped in and when we had coffee later I put the pictures back in the box willy nilly to wait for a winter evening sometime, Might have it to-night by the looks of it. It is snowing hard this morning and not melting as it hits the ground, have about 3 inches of wet heavy snow but it is 34 out so maybe it will melt and turn to rain. Such a shame for it was a holiday and a nice long weekend for people, the first of the season.

To-morrow the moving van and packer comes to take the things for Lila to the coast. They are mostly in one room except for pieces of furniture so it shouldn't be too difficult, then I have a few things to deliver around and a lot of stuff to bring down here to store, well not too much, and then the house will be ready for the new tenants. Guess this year I won't take our spring cleaning very seriously for we are anxious to get out for a change if the weather clears. It is so hard to get at things when it is raining.

Now to answer just a few of your letters, What a nice trip Louisa must be having in the Old Country, seeing old friends and visiting familiar places. So glad she got the chance to go.

You mentioned going to get the Guild picture, thanks so much, in case you haven't gone here is my card.

Actually I didn't work very hard those busy weeks, just a steady something to do and not in connection with getting our house in order for summer. The weather has been so unsettled and rather cold and everyone seems to find it hard to get going. This last week I spent quite a lot of time the three nice days cleaning the oil that ran down the glass when Ules Oiled the house. had to use a razor blade. Verne Castella was here fixing the boxes in the Jeep and so as he needed the car for measurments as he worked, we only went out at noon to shop and errands and that made lunch rather late and a short afternoon.

X We just had a letter from Lila, she wrote us about Kathy meeting one of the salesladies who worked in the children's dep't. in the basement of the Hudson's Bay. (they have a suite in her house) and Kathy (Lila's daughter) asked if she was there the day Mom died and she said yes. that she saw Mom come in, walk over and look at some things and that Mom looked as if she were going to faint, so she and another clerk asked Mom if she was alright? She stood for a minute and said " yes," they turned away as Mom Walked towards the door, they heard her fall, picked her up and sat her on a chair, but she was dead. The nurse and ambulance were there within a few minutes and took her to the hosptial but could do nothing. She had a shopping list in her pocket and had bought everything on it but something for the baby so they figured that was why she was in the children's dep't. Mom was 76 when she died which is a good age and she had a happy winter with the girls and Lila who were really closer to her than anyone.

must write Lila now so all for this letter, it has stopped snowing but we have a good four inches of wet sloppy snow on the ground, it looks as if it might clear but the wind is still east.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff Alta.
Thurs May 26 1955.

Dearest Mother.

It is a little after eight ^{AM.} & we are having the jeep tuned up so thought while waiting would write a letter to you.

Another rather busy week, trying to get Mom's house cleaned out. Takes longer than one expects. Had a wet weekend. rained most of the time & all Monday morning snowed hard. 4-6 inches on the ground. wet slush on the roads.

Tuesday I got out early to do errands & then the movers came about 11 A.M. It was a beautiful day & the snow melted fast. A big van came to take the stuff to Calgary & then the coast. The furniture etc that Lila was to have. A packer came to pack the china & glass. They were very efficient & clean for at the end he swept up all the mess of excelsior. I was interested in how they stored the things in the truck, in ~~sort of~~ ^{each} wrapped each piece of furniture in a blanket or comforter looking thing & tied them in the van. Actually it didn't take very long but think the two lads wanted to make a day of it so I had to hang round back & forth & it wasn't 'til nearly five they finally got away.

Pete is trying to finish the last two paintings & he had company. Nick & Willie Morant & then Jacob. Two young men in the morning. Pete was a ~~big~~ big help with the pictures & suggestions. He & the Indians with him. his wife. another girl 2 young men & a little boy had all been to the

museum to see the paintings & thought they were
 so natural like. It helps having the Indians
 interested. John was here about an hour before the
 others came. Day & then as there were deer in the
 yard they wanted to feed them & one had a box.
 Camera so Pete took pictures of them. All of which
 made lunch a bit late.

We had a busy afternoon though can't remember
 exactly what I did. Several errands etc. Just after
 supper Mr. Lowdale came down with a sketch &
 I got him to look over the last 2 shelves of Mow's
 books. which were largely religious & stories. So
 he divided ones for library, hospital & took 3 for
 the church. So that helped.

Yesterday I got a wash done & a whole lot
 of things picked up to give friends of Mow's. Barbara
 helped a bit with that. Verne came to build 2
 shelves in our store room to hold the extra stuff. He
 was busy last week or it would have been done
 sooner. The cleaner Mom's house becomes the
 messier ours gets, but once the shelves are up we
 can stow the stuff out of the way.

Of one I picked up Mrs. Pavell. She has been
 cleaning house for Mom for years. is very quick
 if not too tough. Has about seven children & a
 husband who is as lazy as she is a hard worker.
 One daughter has five children, so she is always
 surrounded by kids. Last week she cleaned 3
 houses, opening them for the weekend, as well as
 her own work. I don't know how she does it.
 She was glad of anything left in the house.
 even the old shoes fit her. & she took a box of
 old eye glasses hoping one pair would do for

her to read with. How she finds time to read I don't know. We loaded the car up with boxes of this & that even a few cakes of soap & a roll of toilet paper. All the food left like Molasses, tea & baking powder. It was just wonderful to get rid of all the old pots & pans & as we said Mom would really rather she have the things than anyone. There were a few nice nice novels too & the old books Mr. Lansdale said were no good for the library. Mrs. Powell said would do to fill up her book shelf! It made it all fun to have the things useful & appreciated by some one. But ~~she~~ kept me busy keeping up with her. Then ~~we~~ got the living room & two bedrooms cleaned out as well as the kitchen, she cleaned all but the kitchen, even did the bathroom. Waxing the floors as well. To-day she comes to do the basement. Harold helped move a book case to their house & music & games to Mrs. Burnham & finally at 5.30 we took Mrs. Powell home. I was rather weary but willing to go out the west road a little way as Pete suggested before supper. The joke was on us. we got stuck. Have had trouble with the jeep for some time but couldn't find what was wrong. Seems as if it would happen after hitting rough bumps.

We flagged down a car going towards town & sent a message to young Cliff & he came right out. but we had to wait 15 or 20 minutes. Did have a chance to watch ~~the~~ 7

white swans in the lake & a few Elbs. Took
 cliff a while to find the broken wire. It was
 just as well it happened for only when it
 didn't go well could he find ~~it~~ the wire broken
 inside a cable. We lugged back to town & to the
 filling station. I walked home & got supper
 while Pete waited for a new wire. It was
 after nine when I had finished the ironing
 quite a day. but it was funny.

To-day is almost as bad. but will
 write in my next letter about it.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Mrs Pavell said after she got home she
 cleaned her shelves & got all the stuff put
 away. Washed her windows & put the
 curtains up. I really don't know how
 she does it! Was doing her ironing until
 11.30 the night before! felt too tired to go
 to a party so ironed instead!

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, May 29, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Sunday again and another cloudy day which looks as if it might rain this afternoon. Well this is as far as I got before

This was as far as I got yesterday, now it is after lunch on Monday, it is one of those days when all sorts of things happen. Our kitchen sink got plugged up way down and even the hose wouldn't do any good, for as a rule I can fix it, Bob Watt was up at the Icefields turning their water on and his father at Deer Lodge

Now it is after supper in fact 8 P.M. and I may get this letter written yet. maybe I better start with the weekend. ~~Saturday Verne was down in the morning to finish the shelves in the store room, had one little one to put in. I cleaned as usual and also helped Pete~~ Just found I hadn't even written up my diary this week so better start with the day Mrs Powell came to clean Mom's house and we took loads of stuff up to her place first and Harold halped after school and then after taking Mrs P. home we went for a little drive and the Jeep got stuck a good two miles out the West road. It was almost six but young Cliff came out and found the trouble, but a joke on us at the time.

Thursday we took the Jeep over soon after 8 o'clock to have the wfire repaired and they were to bring it back but it was a busy morning for them and it wasn't back even after lunch, Pete and I worked in the morning bringing down things from the basement at Mom's garden tools and such like all pretty dusty and we had to make several trips, Verne got Mrs Powell luckily and even took her home at five for she came for another day of cleaning. No I am wrong, Thursday was the day Nick and Wille Morant were down and then Jacob Two-Young -an and the other Indians later until nearly lunch time, then in the afternoon we had Casey Oliver about the suite and Mrs Brett and Mrs Lloyd with him, It was tea time but we didn't ask them all in, just Verne after they left, But Jimmy Simpson came and we got the rocking chairs from Mom, over to the Simpsons, they are going to use them at Bow with skins over them. Then we took the Morants to the train, it was raining by then. That was rather a busy day and we only got the car back about 3 o'clock and it needed a part from Calgary and so was only hitting on 3 cylinders. Mrs Powell cleaned most of the basement & I washed the curtains etc.

Friday we again got the car to the Cliff to fix soon after 8 A.M. and the part hadn't come, didn't come until nearly noon. we helped Verne quite a bit with the shelf as it was all in one big piece and a job to fit in between the logs. I did a wash too and we also packed some paintings to go to Calgary to an exhibition in honor of Alberta's golden Jubilee, it is always quite a job and we had to write a letter in connection. Bert Taylor the painter came to look over the kitchen at Mom's he said he would paint Sunday if it was allright with us. and Mrs Walker who is to move in this week came too at the same tim.

Then that evening as Mrs Greenham was putting on " the Rose and the Ring " by her children's theater group and I had never been, I asked Barbara and we went at 7.15 after a hurried early supper. It was very good and well done but nearly ten when I got home. ~~Oh yes~~
~~xxxxxxxthe ironing before supper having forgotten it the day~~
~~before~~ We also had a run out the west road to try out the Jeep after Cliff fixed it at noon.

Saturday I cleaned as usual and Verne did the last shelf and Pete painted ~~it~~ in the morning. We also framed the Teepee one, Did errands for the weekend and then in the afternoon I went to a Hospital tea. We had gotten a wife that morning from the Panets in Montreal that friends of theirs were to be here Tuesday and I wanted to get a good cake. Nezer was the house messier and the friend is an ex-governor of the Bank of France. Will have to be up early to-morrow to run round with the duster! Saturday afternoon I got to thinking about the woodwork in Mom's kitchen and if it wouldn't be better to wash it before Bert Taylor painted as it is natural finish and if we washed it later it might mark the paint, so I did that, didn't take more than an hour with Spic and Span, and then the ironing here before supper. Think I have caught Mrs Powell's spirit of working ! That evening the Syd Worts came down but he was going fishing Sunday morning at 5 A.M. so they didn't stay late.

Sunday it looked like rain, we were up real early, about 6.30 so as to unlock the house for Bert Taylor to paint Mom's kitchen which he did before 1.30. and did it well too. We put iron oil on the shelves Verne built and then later in the morning went for a drive, it was getting sunnier and turned into a lovely day. When we got back Cyril Paris dropped over for about half an hour and then when we went for the mail we also went to see if Steam Watt was back for our kitchen sink drain was plugged. he wasn't but we knew we could get along until to-day. Then a Mrs Seiburth came to call, used to go on the Trail Hike. took her to train. Then I started to dig and weed the garden and Patsy MacKenzie came, took her home to get her camera to finish a roll of film and then Pete developed it for her. took her home after six. A rather quiet evening and we almost went to bed when Ken and Hope Thompson of Edmonton came at nine and stayed until after 11. Quite a day. He is a doctor and we had dinner with them this time last year. He was born in Banff.

Now it is Tuesday and we have been up since 6.30 and cleaning the house a bit as we rather expect the friends of the Panets to come, Pete telephoned last night and Mr Moncik said that they were having dinner in their suite with Maurice Chevalier but would let us know at 12.30 to-day what their plans were. We don't know just who to expect, would be fun to have Maurice Chevalier come but anyway we will have a couple of Parisians.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. June 2, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

It is getting a bit more spring like and the trees out the west road are showing green, and our grass has been cut once at the back so is quite green.

Well this has been quite a busy week and the first two days we had the special guests on our minds. Monday was sort of a frustrating day as I got little done. Verne came and finished the lights in the ceiling at the fireplace end of the front room, put a long piece of thin wood to shade the light from the eyes of those sitting below and it gives a soft light on the pictures. Then I moved all the boxes and pictures etc. of Mom's still in the front room upstairs to the store room to be put away later. We had that late night Sunday so were a bit weary in a way. Barbara was over with a letter from Davy and stayed a while and then Mrs Powell was down all afternoon finishing the house and burnt papers and boxes etc. outside that she found. We did a lot of odd things, Pete painted a bit too. Then in the afternoon he got respectable looking and I drove him up to the Banff Springs, nice for me not to have to clean up as I did the sitting in the car. He saw one of the assistant managers about the Monicks arriving and their plans, they were to come in that evening and he suggested Pete telephone. So Pete called about 8.30 I guess and got Mr Monick, he was quite French and said that "Monsieur Chevalier was one of their party," so Pete thought it must be Maurice Chevalier, and much to Mr Monick's amusement, he said "no, not the ginger, Mr Chevalier from Montreal." Anyway he said he would call Pete at Bev's at 12.30 next day and tell us their plans. *Monday we expected Watt all A.M. to fix an plugged drain he did it in the afternoon.*

So Tuesday we were up bright and early at 6.30 and I started dusting right after breakfast and getting the house more or less shipshape. It had gotten pretty cluttered lately, lots of unread magazines and papers etc. vacuumed and tidied as best I could, and upstairs too in case they wanted to see the house. Then Pete went up after an early lunch to wait for the call and promptly on the minute he called at 12.30. They were going fishing in the afternoon but if not too late would come at 5.30 or 5.45. That was fine for us but a bit late to serve tea, so we got the best sherry etc. we could and had it all ready. Then of course with the house so picked up we didn't dare to do much in the afternoon. We did go out and got some flowers for them, and Verne was here and we had tea for him at 3.

Promptly at 5.45 the car drove in. Actually Mr Emanuel Monick was a very easy person, most affable and a good sense of humor. His wife was a little more difficult to talk to as she didn't speak a great deal of English. Mr Chevalier was from Montreal and lives near the Panets, but we thought he was connected with the C.P.R. and instead he had nothing to do with that but is connected with the bank. Then there was another man, a younger man who seemed to be

sort of an asistant or secretary, we never did get his name. I asked Madame M^onick if she would like some sherry or tea and she said " Oh. Tea please " so I started getting that ready and Pete asked the men what they would like and without giving them a chance she informed them we were all having tea, so that was it ! They were interested in the Grizzlys and the pictures and Indian things and when we got out the Eagle hats she wanted to get her camera and take pictures, so while she and the young man went back to the Banff Springs, Mr Monick and Chevalier went up to the Studio to see the last of Pete's murals. Then a great taking 66 pictures when she returned, we all had to be in one, and it was after seven when they left. I do hope they enjoyed it, but so often in trying to do things just right you make awful blunders. Madame Monick offered to help get tea and I should have let her for then she would have felt more at home. In the "erald that night we read that Mr Monick is ~~head~~ President of the Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien and honorary Governor of the Bank of France and he told Pete he was also head of some Ottoman republic bank. He was tired and after this quick tour of Canada, (they flew to Calgary, drove to Banff, went fishing, then ~~went~~ drove to Lake Louise Wednesday, train to Vancouver and Victoria, to a fishing camp the Panets like, then back to Montreal by Edmonton. He flew from Paris to Canada ~~but~~) is going home by the Queen Mary to get a rest. It was fun anyway having them here and the young man seemed to enjoy it most of all.

Well after supper we were keyed up so went to see where they are clearing for a new road and then dropped down to Pearl Moores for a few minutes.

Wednesday we got back to Normal. Steam Watt and Bob were here to put gas in the furnace at Mom's and then I went up later to sweep up a bit, am afraid it sort of made a dust over everything, but anyway the Johnny Walkers moved in yesterday. Verne has been here making a box for the sketch panels and we are getting the Jeep ready, took the mattress s to be cut down and a whole lot of little things like that. Have also got some of the things stowed away upstairs and Pete worked all Wednesday afternoon painting and varnishing the new boxes in the Jeep. a great improvement over last year, more like a little cabin on a boat.

Yesterday Jean Park, the hostess at the Banff Springs came to see us and we had tea, then Verne came over so got him a cup and after that George Paris arrived, quite an afternoon in the end. In the evening we dropped up to see how the Walkers were and they told us Edon Walls was in the hospital, so we went to enquire about him, for he does all our looking after things. He has gotten too tired and lost his voice and the only way to get a real rest is to go to the hospital for a few days.

To-day is lovely and real summery which should bring our leaves out. Pete framed the last picture this morning so we hope soon to get out of town for a few days.

A parcel came from you yesterday, I think birthday. Thanks so much.

Have an idea there is something else I was going to say but can't remember. Will send this with a clipping about Museum, the thing was written before Pete's pictures were hung. *Soads of love*
Calharue.

Banff, Alberta.

Wed, June 8, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Summer arrived Sunday, we seem to have missed spring except for perhaps one or two spring like days, now it is warm and sunny and even if the leaves aren't out full yet, our balm of gileads near the house are still buds and we had a frost this morning, still it has a summer feel about it.

Rather a busy week, did I tell you that the Wilmots arrived Saturday, stayed at the Banff Springs to celebrate their wedding anniversary, they came down about five on Saturday, it was dark and a strong wind but not raining. We had been cutting canvas ready for sketching trips and Mrs Brett had been here for nearly an hour so it was quite an afternoon. The Wilmots came for just 5 minutes and stayed for tea and we had a nice visit and they decided to go to Bow Lake for the next night and to see us in the morning. We had promised to go to the Valances that night to see Peter's stereo pictures he took in Honolulu last winter, and took some of ours, so we were busy getting those sorted and cleaned and getting supper and up to the Valances by eight. and it was after midnight when we got home a late evening for us.

Sunday was lovely and we were so glad for the Wilmots, real summer, they came after ten and we were expecting the Indians who wanted to borrow some of our Indian clothes, so I went with them over to the museum while Pete waited here, We thought it would be nice if they could tell you about the paintings, ~~They~~ We got back just as the Indians came. Bill McLean, his wife and kids, lent them each an outfit. Then a little later Jacob Two-youngman to borrow a headdress, and by then the Wilmots left for Bow Lake, am so glad they had good weather, it was lovely Monday too.

We stayed close to home Sunday and didn't really do much. the Indians came back later in the afternoon but we didn't give them tea or anything as they were anxious to get home.

Now to-day we have had another nice visit. This time Annette Morse Clay. She was on a Social Service in San Francisco and joined a tour with 90 others to go home this way. Got hold of us through Mary Livingston who runs the curio shop up there at the Banff Springs, Mary coming in last evening to tell us. I couldn't think who " Mrs Clay " was but Mary said she was a cousin and from Washington so took a chance and called her last night and she came down this afternoon. Her train didn't go until six so we had time to talk, take her up to check out of the hotel, go for a drive and show her the museum and Art School or summer school and campground. Again it was lovely weather, hardly a cloud. Then back here for a cool drink. Lynnle and Christine had come in the meantime and

helped pass things. It was really a nice visit and a chance for us to get acquainted again for I believe she was 14 and I, 8 when we last met in Concord.

Have been busy the last three days getting things ready to go out camping. It is always hard getting organized somehow, we have paint to pick out and the right painting equipment, then the food and cooking utensils and the boxes are newly planned so will take a bit more figuring to have everything fit. This sudden warm weather sort of took us by surprise and there are other things to be thought of too.

*The words were done Sunday night & I did
Scott all last evening from 7-30 to 10. Listened to a tape on an
recorder. Must go and mail this so it will go early in the morning.*

Loads of love,

Catharine

Bar Lake
Sun June 12
1955

Dearest Mother,

It is nearly a week now with wonderful summer weather. Ever since Marian & Wesley Whitcomb were here. Guess we have them to thank! The last 4 days (or 5) without a cloud. Like real summer. Just now I'm doing a bit of sunbathing on my legs hoping to go without stockings later on in Bauff!

We had quite a time getting out of Bauff. Lots of company it seemed. Every night but one. Some one dropped in. Might have made it on Friday. But Thursday we were just having supper at 6.45! When Erling Strom came with a Maine lad, Jack Corvin or Calvin from Rangely Lakes. a Ski Patrol man at Struve in winter. He is to help Erling this summer at Mt Assiniboine. We had our desert & talked until nine & just as they left Edmee Moore Reid came (having heard we were going out) & stayed until 11 P.M. When you get up at 6.30 a late evening makes one sleepy the following morning. So Friday we got a later start, doing

things. Then Friday night Harold ^{White} & his little girl friend saw Pete working the new grass & I sewing hooks on curtains for the Jeep & came in from a ride on their bikes. Pauline Ness is a lovely girl, a top student, musical & a camera fan. So they got taking pictures & Pete explained things. (Pauline is working in Noble's Camera Shop this summer) then I got the gingerals & they finished our chocolate cake but I finished the curtains. We are rather pleased when the teenagers come for an evening!

Saturday we got up early & the Jeep packed before it got too hot. It's been really hot in the sun, nearly 80° in the shade. & the first heat (with snow just 2 weeks before) makes one real lazy feeling. at least I couldn't seem to get things done. Syd Vallance & Mr Rushworth dropped in. they had been taking pictures of goats. & Barbara was over. but we got away about 2.30.

It was hot but so clear. not a cloud, not as pretty as a day with clouds but we aren't complaining. When we got near Bow Lake we met Dr & Mrs Riley, the Bay & Walter & Mrs Phillips on their way from a day at Peyto, Lookout. Still snow

there. but it will soon be gone.

There are first patches of it at Ban Lake, the lake hasn't gone at yet, but there are patches of open water. All the spring birds are singing & it's lovely.

We are sleeping in the jeep but had supper with the Simpsons & dinner to-day. Made an omelette breakfast & a sheet this morning. Always a bit hard to get started.

They had only 5 guests last night - few cars to-day. Guess it's partly because the road is under construction.

Tuesday. We came down yesterday as it started to rain and we have so much to do in Banff, not that we got anything done yesterday afternoon with 11 people dropping in on my Birthday! Thank you so much for the wonderful book on Japan the photographs are so beautifully taken and printed with such quality, what a tragedy the man who took them was killed in Peru later. The other book looks very good. remember your mentioning it and the card is a good one. There were also lovely cards from Hanne and Aunt Julie in the mail yesterday. Please thank them for remembering, I don't know how they do.

Dennis Mighall and a Mr Waring his boss came from Edmonton. called just as we finished a late lunch and stayed until 4 o'clock. It was nice to have Dennis, he was so good to us in Edmonton. Then we went over town for errands and met the Morants and asked Nick to come and see the Japan book as he takes the same kind of photographs, so they came about five and Barbara and later Harold dropped in so we made a late tea, Then a late supper for us and before we finished Mr Scott, then Asta Hauge with a dozen lovely roses and carnations as she never forgets my birthday and while she was still here Erling Strom with a big box of candy.

He took Asta home after 9 and we were nearly ready for bed, but first had to look at Pete's present to me. A Polaroid Land Camera, which he thinks I can use to take pictures for you as things happen and include them in my letters, for they develope and print them in a minute after you snap the shutter. Also good if you want to take a bit of detail when sketching.

Must go now for food and the mail but wanted to write a ~~tiny~~ bit.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. June 18, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

I really am not too sure what day it is or whether we are coming or going but it is fun anyway. We set out again yesterday on another sketching trip. The first one had been short, just two nights, but this was shorter. for both times it has ended in rain and seems silly to sit out in the Jeep all evening when a drive of 50 miles brings us home, then we run into all sorts of things to see to in Banff and takes several days to get going again.

Think the last time I wrote a real letter was up at Bow Lake. We had a wonderful spell of weather that week and got started the last two days of it, perhaps it was just as well we didn't go sooner for the sun was very strong and not a cloud for 4 days. We were at Bow Lake last Sunday and then Monday it started to storm and as one does get washouts at this time of year we started in. That was my birthday, did I tell you what a nice day it was? Think I did. We had barely finished lunch and the dishes here when Dennis Mighall and a friend from Edmonton came, made quite a call, we were so glad not to miss them. Then I changed and we did the shopping and Pete brought home the new camera and I undid the lovely books from you. We saw Nick Morant and Willi and told them about the one on Japan, knowing how much he would appreciate it and they came back for tea, and before they came Barbara was in. We also had seen Eldon and a few errands. Our supper was late and then Asta Hauge came with a dozen lovely roses and carnations too, and while she was still here Erling Strom arrived with a big box of candy. and before Asta came Mr Scott was down. Quite a day. no chance to enjoy my presents until nine at night!

I can't remember all the things we did the next 3 days, but one evening we spent at Peggy Prossers trying to telephone the Campbells and see if they were coming up and when, as both the Prossers and we too got letters, saying they could get away next week and wanted to see a dentist at the same time. Peggy was trying to get the kids to bed and they were acting up a bit and really funny, but we got the call through and they will be up Tuesday late afternoon or evening. Actually they decided next day and Peggy called again. We have to be here Tuesday anyway to vote for the Dollar-a-day Hospital Plan, and then again on the 29th. for Pete to vote in a provincial election. On the 27th we hope to go to Morley to their sundance, so it will be fairly busy next week or ten days.

Sam and Cis were down Thursday night on their way back from the opening of a very luxurious new motel and told us all about it, and so it went. We had to be here the 16th. Thursday as some of the Indians came to another do and wanted to borrow more clothes but I got the washing and ironing done that day. one afternoon Eldon Wallis was over and we saw numerous people about things. Oh. yes. got some pictures ready to go in an exhibition the Rotary Club are putting on to help the Library building fund.

Anyway yesterday we got started out again. a new tarpaulin we had made to go over the Jeep came but didn't have enough drummits so we had to have those put in, but we got off after lunch and it was so much easier the 2nd time, most things but the fresh food in the Jeep. We have two of everything like tooth brushes so we just leave them there.

We found the weather wasn't too promising west, though the morning was lovely and ended by going up the Yoho Valley. It was still quite springlike, the snow just gone in many parts and a few piles left. We drove way up beyond the big Takakaw falls to a new campground they were making last fall and it was nice there, sunny part of the time and we were the only ones. Decided to make supper and then go back down if we liked but it seemed so nice and quiet we stayed all night. Each time I remarked on how quiet it was a car drove in, one with a little boy who played round and they all scattered a few papers about, the other with a dog, but they soon left. We decided to try out the new tarpaulin and that took a bit of figuring to put the poles up and the ropes etc. It goes over the top of the Jeep and out over the right hand door and the back. Worked very well. Then we stretched out on our very comfortable foam rubber mattresses and I read the newspaper until it was nearly dark and we turned in early.

In the night or about 4 this morning when it was quite light we could see the clouds on the mountains down the valley where it seemed to be raining and dozed a bit until the rain started with us about six. We thought we might as well get up then and cook our breakfast before it poured too hard and see how the tarp was working. The water gathered in a few spots but Pete lowered a pole and it ran off. It is light weight, will take a picture next trip to show you. We meant to this morning and forgot. We were nice and dry cooking and eating and it rained quite hard at times. We then folded it up after the dishes were washed and everything put away and off we went hoping for better weather in some other valley.

Didn't look too promising further west so we went to Moraine Lake for the first time this year, thinking we might sketch there, but though it was sunny when we arrived and Pete started to get his camera out to take a special picture of some reflections, by the time some people from Connecticut had asked questions about where to stay and a car full of people from Colorado had also asked directions the sun was gone. The lake is pretty low yet, and ice at one end and soon the clouds came in so we went back and started towards Banff. Had a picnic lunch on the road which goes to Radium and then went up to the top of the hill to have a look there, but it was still stormy towards B.C. We drove to Johnsons Canyon and off onto the old road just before you get there and decided to try a sketch there. It wasn't very successful and by then we were not as fresh feeling either and then as the weather looked as if the squalls of rain would keep on coming over we thought we might as well come home, which we did. We were only 16 miles away, hardly worth camping so near home.

Found lots of mail, a lovely long letter from Gale and one from Ebbs about their plans. If it clears to-morrow will try to go up to Bow Lake and see Jimmy about a trip for them, and if it is nice can stay over until Tuesday. However it is raining hard and looks settled in to-night, so may stay home and try to get things done. Am so sleepy can hardly keep my eyes open so all for now.

Sunday AM. off again. lovely fresh AM. Love Catharine.

no time
to read
over.

3auff
June 30, 1955.

Dear Mother. Just a hurried
note to go with the new stamp,
& to thank you so much for
the lovely silver presents we
opened this morning. Made the

day extra exciting, & what
lovely things. The little dish
will be lovely to use & it's
fun having 3 boxes of spoons.
You were awfully good to
remember.

It's been a busy day
& company now, so must
get to the P. O.

Rusty must be on his
way. It will be fun
having him here. Well,
write more after his arrival

Heaps of love

Pete & Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. June 23, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

This must be Cousin Harriet's birthday so will have to remember to send her a wire, just haven't had time to write. We are getting awfully busy.

The Campbells came late Tuesday night and I did manage a letter to Ebbs about a pack trip he wants to make with young Jimmy Simpson, but otherwise it seems hard to get things done.

First of all we are so pleased that Rusty is coming out and the Simpsons are as excited as we are. We were at Bow Lake to ask about the Newburys and Geof Lewis going out with Jimmy. Went up last Sunday morning, a beautiful day but chilly air and a hot sun. We camped at the end of the lake before you get to the Simpsons and each made a sketch, better than the first ones, and had our lunch there, then went on to ~~Bow Lake~~ the Lodge after supper. Big Jim's first remark was that he had had a letter from Rusty himself and had already written for him to come out, they are sure they can use him for all sorts of jobs. The thing that amused me was that each one spoke of what they thought he could do. Young Jimmy said he planned to send him out on fishing trips, and Mrs Simpson said, "you know Mary and I thought that on the boy's day off (the one who carries the luggage for guests) Rusty could ~~do~~ do that job and make a little extra money." Evidently it ~~is~~ was one of the most lucrative jobs of all and the boy last year made from \$5.00 to \$25.00 dollars a day!

The Simpsons took a real liking to Rusty when he was a t Bow years ago and so are really looking forward to his being there. The one thing to tell Rusty is for him to get a round-trip ticket to Banff, and to tell anyone who asks that he is coming out to visit his relations for the summer. Then we will meet him in Banff and take him up to Bow Lake, I don't know just how much the Simpsons will be able to pay him, depends on how much work he does I expect, but he can help them a lot and I am sure will make something. Would be funny if he got a job guiding the Newburys.

Do you know when Rusty is planning to come? If you do it would help us to plan if we knew which day he expects to arrive.

We have been going in and out so much I am all mixed up when we did what and in between we seem to have quite a few callers.

Lots of love in another rush
Catherine.

Banff, Alta.
Sun. June 28, 1955,

Dearest Mother,

I am completely disorganized somehow and tomorrow if the weather is good and we can get packed up we are going to Morley for a couple of days as the Indians are supposed to be putting on a sundance. Pete is anxious to see what he can of the setting up of the camp and all but we aren't sure how it will work or whether we will camp there or ~~even~~ come home.

We have to be here on the 29th. for Pete to vote in the provincial election and a letter from Russ to-day says Rusty is flying out on June 30th. July 1st. is Dominion Day and a holiday like the 4th of July, so we won't attempt to meet Rusty at the plane as it would be a bad night to drive to Banff. Have reserved a room at the Hotel Wales for Rusty and then he can catch the train at 8.15 next morning and be in Banff at 10.45. when we will meet him. We will see that he has all the equipment he will need and maybe go to Bow Lake on Saturday. Then he will be on his own with the Simpsons and we may do a bit of sketching up the road.

Had a wire from Ebbs this morning from Denver and they will come to Banff on the 7th. We have reserved a cabin for them and for the Lewises for the 7th. and 8th. Then they can go to Bow Lake on the 9th. and out for a short pack trip on the 10th and 11th. with Jimmy Simpson to Fish Lakes. The fishing there is really good Jimmy says, it is 12 miles in so only those who go on horseback do any fishing there. and perhaps no one has been in there as yet this year. Just wish Cousin Bert could be with them, Jimmy thought he would send the men in the day before to set up the camp and if so Rusty might go along to help. Am so glad Rusty is coming soon enough to get used to things etc.

The week after the Newburys leave is Indian Days and right after that we may go to Standoff to an Indian Sundance in the south of the province and then come back via the Campbells. So we will be real busy now until the end of July.

Such a funny week as we have just had. Tuesday we voted for the hospital and luckily it went through so that the Catholics will stay and build a new hospital, otherwise they were going to leave, the present hospital is condemned and we wouldn't have had one at all, and the doctors would have left with no place to operate. Now all is O.K. a big majority for it in the end.

The Campbells were coming up ^{Tuesday}, leaving after school. So we figured they would be here about 10 or 10.30 P.M. and if they didn't come by that we were going to bed and see them next morning, but Dave Crosser was sure they would come to us first, not knowing where the Proseers lived and they were to stay with them. So we didn't know what to do when 11 P.M. came, finally we got half undressed and went to bed. and about mid-night Dave and Gray came around to say they had arrived.

Wed.

From then on it was a most mixed up week. The Dentist said he would work them in whenever he could to look at their teeth. Gray and Dane had toothaches but the others needed checking. ~~Monday~~ Gray sat for 2 hours and never was even looked at, but Dane got one pulled and a couple filled. One or the other seemed to always be due at the dentist and with Gray and El and the 3 children we were always losing track of each other. They were to stay two days so we tried to do as much as we could for them the first two days. Then the car was in trouble and Dave's garage so busy they couldn't even check it the first day. Then when they looked at it Thursday the starter broke in testing it, before they found out the matter. They had to send for a part in Calgary. Telephoned and the girl forgot to send it after promising and that took an extra day, for they called Calgary next morning to find there the part was, and it had never been sent. Then when it came and the starter was fixed they found something else wrong and in the end the mechanic came and worked all Sunday morning to fix it. But all week the Campbells were without a car, so we took them quite a few places. *We were always on the go it seemed.*

They had dinner here three days, steak, beans and ice cream, Salmon another day and liver and bacon yesterday. They were all so tired that after lunch they would fall asleep and we wouldn't be able to do much but wait until they woke up! It really was funny. ~~Wednesday~~ we went with the Prossers and Jonny too, 12 of us for a picnic out to Minnewanka and then Harold took us up the lake in the boat. The Prossers have a girl about 8 and David 6, *the C's* ~~and~~ *and* Ian is also 6, Timmy about 8 and Dane 11. They are the best behaved boys you ever saw, and so interested in things.

Dorothy Whyte is coming to-day, but the train is late. She is from Vancouver and going to the summer school as she did last year. The Campbells got off this ~~morning~~ *afternoon*. They had breakfast with us. Gray and El, *they got a lot of stuff fixed, some pulled so the trip was worth while!*

The wonderful parcel came a couple of days ago. I thought it must be a delayed birthday present but see we are to save it for the 30th. Thank you so much. Will make that day real exciting. Can't imagine what it is.

Must go now to catch the mail,

Loads of love

Pete & Catharine