

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. July 2, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

I know that you and Hanne will want to know first thing about Rusty's safe arrival, and as it is raining hard this morning we may not go up to Bow Lake right off. We have had breakfast but Rusty is still sleeping, good thing for such a dull morning !

Yesterday was our Dominion Day holiday, we were up early and get the house in order, Made up a bed in our old bedroom over the kitchen for Rusty , we have a single couch there and use it for a sort of dressing room, so by our using the downstairs toilet in the morning we haven't had to disturb ~~it~~ him.

The train was in several sections due to holiday crowds and Rusty had gotten the 2nd one. He was an hour late getting into Calgary on the plane, arriving at 10.30^{PM} but said he had a nice room in the Hotel Wales where we stayed last June and caught the train for Banff at 8.30 yesterday morning. Had breakfast on the train coming up.

We had to go up to the Beckers Bungalows to say good-bye to Asta Hauge before lunch, she is going back to Norway until next spring as her parents aren't well, ~~saxxaxkexixexay~~ and then we came back home for dinner. Susan arrived just as we were cooking the steak and string beans and mushrooms so she stayed to eat with us. She must be about Rusty's age, worked up at Bow Lake doing the laundry two years ago so we joked a bit about that, had ice cream with fresh strawberries and all ate too much, for Rusty got so sleepy, (probably the altitude and a long day on the plane,) ~~and~~ that he went up and took a nap. Susan helped with the dishes and then she had to go as she works up at the Upper Hot Springs as cashier and is on the 4 until midn night shift.

We have a friend in the hospital so I went up there and to the mail and ~~Pete~~ stayed home until Rusty woke up. Back I came and Dorothy Whyte and Erling Strom arrived in his Jeep. He is in from Assinaboine, We were having tea ~~when~~ Rusty woke up so he joined us and met Erling, who has met Russ. Erling had to ~~go~~, and then Dorothy and I took Rusty to the Museum about 4.30 to see the murals, as he had ~~mentioned~~ a couple of times he wanted to see them. There were lots of people there, crowds in fact. Rusty said he was really impressed, by the pictures not ~~be~~ crowds. They don't look as well as they should for the lighting is too glaring and there are too many other pictures in the same room at present. Then we came back for ~~Pete~~ and took Dorothy up to the Banff Springs where she has been to a Quota convention.

Pete tried a salmon chowder for supper, hasn't made one for several years and Rusty put saddle soap on his boots.

and we had a quiet evening just talking. Checked his things to see he had all he needed for Bow Lake and he has just the right things, maybe need some long underwear which he didn't think to bring but otherwise is well fixed.

We were interested Dorothy and I, for he seemed to like best talking to Pete about all sorts of things and am sure he will learn a lot from Jim Simpson. We had quite a discussion about Roosevelt after supper for evidently he had written his thesis on the subject and we thought much as he did. Rusty says he is supposed to read a lot this summer and I am sure the Simpsons will help that way as they have a knack of making one interested in all sorts of things.

It is now nine o'clock and Rusty has finished breakfast, we will be going out soon to shop and mail this. Still raining and fresh snow on the mountains but hope it will clear by afternoon, if it does we will drive to Bow Lake then. Ebbs and family arrive Thursday so ~~it~~ will give us a few days sketching before they come.

Our Wedding Anniversary was a very happy day though a busy one. Got up early as Pete had to take the Jeep to have a new clutch put in. They thought it would take 4 hours but it was there all day. I did the kitchen floor, hoping it would last all summer. also walked over for the groceries. but no one came in the morning which was a help. Then after lunch thought I had better do the wash on hand and had just put it in when Dorothy arrived with a friend. Dr Luckie from Cleveland Ohio, head of the Quota Club which has just been having a convention at the Banff Springs. She was a very interesting person, a child psychologist. They looked at the sketches we did last summer and she was able to tell which were mine and which Pete's much better than Dorothy as she was trained to interpret such things, or tell a person's character from what they drew or painted.

They were still here when Lynn Becker arrived with a book she had made for school about Norway. I had to get busy and write the notes to go with the new stamp that was out that day and then Sam took me to the post office as he was working in the shop. Pete went over for the car and didn't come back with it until 6.30 so I spent a long time getting supper it seemed. Then we went up to see Asta and try out the Jeep, took her to Ella May Becker's for a call and later went in too for a visit, then back here and four of her friends arrived looking for her so they all came in. and it was nearly ten when they left. Quite an evening in the end.

Now we will go and do errands and mail this and I will be writing again soon. Thanks again so much for the lovely spoons and the pretty dish, and the little Norwegian fork Metcellia so kindly sent. Made the anniversary rather exciting. Dorothy gave us a little cheese knife with the prettiest china handle.

Loads of love ,

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. July 6, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Mean't to write you yesterday, an account of taking Rusty up to Bow Lake but we seemed to have lots of company and I just never did get a letter typed.

We went up on Saturday. spent the morning packing the Jeep and doing errands and then left after lunch. Got up about 4 o'clock and Rusty got a great welcome from all the Simpsons.

It was quite a coincidence ~~but~~ we had no sooner parked the Jeep and started towards the door of the lodge when a man came out, he looked familiar at a distance and who should it be but Dr Marshall. He had stopped off for lunch and a horse-back ride at Bow Lake and Mrs Simpson was telling him about the paintings Pete had done. He was so pleased to see Pete and we were equally excited to see him. Seems he had never gotten our Christmas card or the photographs of the sketches we did last summer, (~~the~~ ones we sent to you) so he didn't know how Pete was getting on, and though Pete sent two messages by different people they had forgotten to give them or hadn't seen him. He had his son with him, a most attractive young lad, first year medical student at McGill. we were glad to meet him. and Dr. Marshall was so pleased about the tri-focals working so well. Seems just lately he had been talking to Dr Allan Brooks ^{one of 10} (I ^{top US} ^{eye} ^{specialists} think that was the name) of John Hopkins who has had both his cataracts removed and who told Dr Marshall he had tried tri-focals and had come to the conclusion that they wouldn't work for people who had cataracts. He operates with bi-focals. so Dr Marshall was extra pleased to find Pete had used them so successfully. He was on his way to Banff and had been going to come and see us but wouldn't hear of us going back then, but promised to go to the museum and also to see us on his next visit to Banff -

Rusty went off with Mrs Simpson to find his room and he is to room with a young lad, Bruce Halleck of Calgary, a ^{16 year old} fine boy who is up to carry bags, etc. He and Rusty seem to hit it off fine. We were sitting in front of the living room fire, Dr. Marshall had left and were talking to Mrs Simpson's sister, Aunty Jo. when several people arrived and first thing we knew Rusty was helping carry bags upstairs for three men, did it as if he had been working at it for sometime. He winked at me as he went by but we never let on. He eats with the rest of the staff and family so had supper before we did. Then we went down by the lake on the little road we like to use for camping.

It rained that night but Sunday wasn't too bad, the light not too good, we cooked out breakfast ~~am~~ then went up to see how Rusty was getting on. had a few glimpses of him and he talked to Pete a while, we talked a while with Bruce's father and

then went to the other end of the lake to sketch. Were looking round when Eaker the game warden came in to ask some people taking photographs to move their car and then spoke to us. We had never met him before, he is an awfully nice English lad and we had a long talk with him, glad to get to know him a bit. Then decided with the weekend people it was too disturbing to paint there and went back to the lake shore near the Simpsons,

It was lovely for an hour or so, not a bit of wind and lovely reflections. So we started to sketch after a quick lunch, had one couple watch for a while and then a Calgary car drove down the little road and seemed rather annoyed to find us there. We thought they would back out but they ate their lunch in the car. The poor man was back and forth from front to back and there was much "darling do you want this" or "darling do you want that". The wind came up and our subject was spoilt in a few minutes also it started to rain so we put away our things and didn't know what to do as they didn't offer to move and our car was headed out, between them and the view of the lake. He came to wash the dishes, was quite lame and a nice little fellow, rather hepecked looking. We offered to back onto the beach and let them ~~xxx~~ go ahead onto the gravel to ~~xxxx~~ and he ~~thank~~ed us, but let us know that they often picnicked there and had never found anyone there before. I felt like asking if they were staying at the Simpsons but one doesn't say the things one feels like. He had a strong English accent.

We ~~xxxxxxx~~ thought we would have a look up the road at the Peyto Lookout as it was very stormy looking by then, had just gotten up to the parking space and saw several busses and wondered if by chance Virginia Mighall was on one, as she was due in to Simpsons to be a waitress for the summer. The little girl you sent the book on ballet to, or got it for. Sure enough she spotted us and flew over, so excited and her hair in a big pony bouncing back and forth. We saw her later at the camp, just hope she works out alright, for she is a lively little teenager.

Didn't see much more of Rusty as he was busy, he had been riding and was going to help on the woodpile when we left Monday. Pete had little snatches of conversation but Sunday night we were talking with a Prof. of Economics at the Univ. of Chicago and now at Yale and his wife, he Russian and she German and didn't get to bed until ten, it stays light so late and there was still pink in the sky.

It was rainy in the morning so we decided to come back in, and had a number of callers that afternoon, among them Dorothy Whyte. We also met ~~xxx~~ Gladys Ashmole on the bus at 8.30, she is to be here 2 or 3 weeks. Is the Physio-therapist. It was dark and rained all afternoon so we took Dorothy home, did errands etc.

Yesterday had a busy morning with Sam and Verne and Elsa Wyatt and Veronica in ~~thex~~ too, Mr Lonsdale in the afternoon when I was trying to wash out things and Aldon Walls after supper.

To-day is lovely but we have to wait in as the Newburys come to-morrow, but there will be plenty more nice days. We all go up to Bow Lake on Saturday and Rusty will go on the trip with them. Mrs Simpson is going to cook. There is too much snow at Fish Lake so they are going to Hector Lake. Loads of love Catharine.

Thanks so much for your letter
so nice to know you were thinking of us especially on that day.
More love Catharine

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Saturday
July 9 1955

Dearest Mother

A perfect day - we are all off for a picnic lunch. The Lewises have Dorothy White as guide & the Newburys Janny. - we have David & Sam's most important of all the lunch. The others started & Pete thought we better check our tires & sure enough a slow leak in one. Are having it fixed now. had a nail working in. So the rest have left & we are having the tire fixed. just lucky we stopped.

Are to meet at Moraine Lake for lunch. then see Lake Louise & to Bow Lake in time for a horse back ride. The Newburys go on a trip of 3 days to Hector Lake tomorrow (too much snow at Fish Lakes) Janny & Rusty going too. Mrs Simpson as cook. Dorothy is going to Bow for 1 night & we will stay round there. The Lewises go to the Refulds & then start for home.

Have had lots of fun. We cooked them all a steak dinner yesterday & they seemed to enjoy it. Pete got 14 small steaks & nearly all was eaten. Veg. juice. mashed potatoes & frozen strip beans. Vanilla Ice Cream.

Must go -

Loads of love

Catharine

NUM-TI-JAH

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Sunday, July 10, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Rather difficult to write with so much activity going on but will just start a letter anyway as we know you & the Newburys will want to hear & it's hard to remember what we've told you.

~~Yesterday we tried~~ Better start at the beginning. We expected the Newburys to arrive Thursday evening or late afternoon from Glacier Park. I thought they would naturally come to our house first, so decided while Pete showed them the way to their cabin on Tunnel Mt. we had reserved I would run off to get enough supper as the stores stay open until nine o'clock. When 6 o'clock came & no sign of them we ate a quick sandwich & soup so we could really cook fish or steak for them. Norman Tabuteau drove in about 6.30 to ask if they were still severely coming as they hadn't arrived there. We talked a bit & by the time he drove back to the camp they had

registered in, washed up & left for town. We didn't dare both leave & the Lewises hadn't showed up. Then we realized Ebbs & family must have eaten over town first. Stupid of us not to think of that. They came about 8 or 8.30 & Norman was back a 3rd time to say the Lewises had come & were making their supper. They put the kids to bed about 9.30 & then ~~all came~~ the 4 grown ups came down for a visit until 11 or later.

Friday was a rainy day. Rained early but gradually cleared to a nice evening. They came down in the morning ^{about 11} all 10 I think - then went to the museum while we stopped for dinner. Thought we were quite smart, got back at 12.15 & had dinner ready by the time they came about one o'clock. Set up a card table for 4 & the others sat at our dining table. Had vegetable juice & sherry. White Pete cooked the steaks. By luck the potatoes & frozen beans done in pressure cookers came out just right time - as nice & quick. & we had fresh strawberries on vanilla ice cream. Everyone helped with the dishes & by 3 o'clock we were through eating washed up & put away - all 12 of us. Nifty Addisell from Edmonton had dropped in first at one but could see we

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

was a bit preoccupied so he didn't stay more than 10 minutes. Then Syd Vallance came as we finished lunch & had a nice chat with Ebs. which we were glad of, as Syd is a lawyer too - looks after everything for us.

Ebs came with us to meet Eldon Walls & see the property so he can tell Russ. & the rest went up the Chair Lift on Noquay. When we got back Lynnie Beecher came in & Ebs asked her if she would like to go with all of them up to the Banff Springs Hotel for a swim after the Chair Lift. Johnny had joined them after lunch so went too. We drove Lynnie up to her house for her suit & Dorothy Whyte came along just then so took her to the Summer school at the same time. Were back before the others arrived & then they all left for the swim & having had a big dinner decided to cook a light supper. We thought we would have a quiet time. First went round & ordered rolls & things for the picnic next day. had planned to take

Dorothy White with us as she had nothing special to do over the weekend & we thought could go in one car & explain the scenery. & she hadn't been to Bow Lake for years.

✓ Were just in the midst of supper when 3 Indians drove in in a panel truck. one we recognized as a blind man on crutches who we have sort of been accustomed to give \$10.00 to each Indian boy as he has no real means of support.

He was carefully ~~been~~ guided to our back door & we knew what that meant. So Pete gave him the money & then we went out to the truck & met Amos Amos & his older brother Paul Amos. a wonderful old Indian we hadn't known before. He told Pete he had a picture of himself he had wanted Norman Sinton to buy. but Norman wouldn't take it for the museum. So Pete asked to look at it. found it was a small but very well painted portrait head in oils & a good likeness. He would sell it for \$10. or \$15. so as \$10. was our last bill. he offered that & now we have a really good picture painted by a school teacher named T. Shultz. or something like that. Also found Paul knew Pete's father well & had an interesting talk. by the time they left our soup was cold. would have

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

been cheaper to treat all the Newbury's & Lewises to supper somewhere - for the Indians cost us \$20.

The Lewis family have to get home soon so didn't go on the pack trip so we suddenly thought it would be fun for Jimmy to go as he is at loose ends this summer not getting a job as he is to go to Cadet Army Camp later in Vernon B.C. but thought we'd better ask Ebb's first what they thought. So drove up & found them all at supper. The kids all eating what they wanted in one cabin & then bringing what was left over to the parents in the other cabin. It was getting fairly late but we took all the kids in our jeep for a drive round Tunnel Mt & a tour through the camp ground to see the hundreds of campers. As we went by the Summer school Chalets we told them about Dorothy. Nancy said "How old is she?" & ~~we~~ just then we came to Dorothy walking along the road. so she came with us back to the camp. Then we took her home & it was after 10 o'clock by the time we saw Jimmy to see if he wanted to go. he was so

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pleased. you could see it in the way his face
lighted up. was sure he had everything he
needed & would be ready by 10 A.M.

Saturday was Bill's birthday. he had
been reminding us of the fact ever since he
arrived. We found a small pair of moose
& he had a new Davy Crockett shirt when he
came down. It was a little hectic trying to get
the Jeep packed, getting Dorothy at 9 & meeting
Ebb's later to go to the bank. errands. Post office etc.
The Lewis had gone to see the Buffalo first & finally
about 10.30 we got started. Sammy & David came
with us. Dorothy with the Lewis car. Jan with Ebb
& we would meet at Moraine Lake for a picnic
lunch. I had gotten gas. but Pete said we'd
just better check the tires, so did & found one
was way down & lost another pound at the
Jelling Station. Nothing to do but have it patched.
We weren't too worried as we had the food. But
it was lucky we found the nail there & not on
the road & luckily still as I scribbled the note
to you I remembered we had forgotten the birthday
cake! So dashed back to the house for it.

It was after eleven when we got away &
nearly 1 o'clock when we got to Moraine. It was
the most beautiful day after the rain & lovely
clear air with big white clouds. we were so
glad.

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Only Geoff Lewis was at the campground when we arrived. Some had walked to the end of the lake & the kids were climbing over the big rock slide. We had hot water in the thermos so it took no time at all to cook the first batch of wieners - it's an easy kind of picnic - plenty of milk, saus, wieners & watermelon.

Ed had a sparkler for the Birthday cake & we had quite a time, got Bill near & then it wouldn't light in the wind so had to distract him while they moved the cake into a shelter. Poor Bill couldn't figure why he was suddenly given so much attention & then the sparkler was lit & everyone sang "Happy Birthday" & no one had a camera ready!

~~They~~ They all had a look at Lake Louise even to a Moose in the parking space & then we drove up to Bow - It was a lovely day. ~~At~~ The 5 boys had a long supper together - so much foolishness going on I think. & then the rest of us later on - It stays light so late, we ladies, Dorothy, Anne Betty Lewis & I went for a walk & when we got back found the Newbury's car gone - they said

to the Peys Lookout. so I said I would drive the rest up in the Jeep. From no where 4 boys appeared. so Betty thought she wouldn't go, but Anne & Dorothy - I in front & the 4 boys eating cookies on our beds in back. It was getting dark but we went anyway. Passed Ebb's & the rest of their way home. The lake was a lovely soft green & the sky a bright orange. it was lovely. but when we got back & we were making up our beds for the night at 10.30 it was almost dark. quite a day for us. The kids all get along so well together but there's lots of commotion.

To-day was lovely all A.M. clear & a hot sun. we spent most of the morning watching the family get started on their pack trip up at the Corral. Took some pictures as best we could. The Lewises went part way on a 1 day trip & then returned about 4.30. Dorothy helped us eat the rest of the winners for lunch & we had a rain shower. Took a short drive but it was too dull to want to sketch & we were a little weary. Dorothy was to take a Brewster Bus back this afternoon & when it came in with a load of people from Jasper. one lady got out & asked if Jim Simpson was here. He came out & it seems she was a niece or granddaughter or something of Sir William Van Horne. She was only here a few minutes. We were amused for when Jim appeared all the people on the other side of the bus stood up to see what Jim looked like as if he were a bear or something. & he rose to the occasion & waved them off.

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

We had dinner with the Lewis family. They are packing up to make an early start in the morning. Monday. Not a bad day. Were up early to wave the Lewis family off at 6 A.M. then cooked breakfast.

The family are at Hector Lake today, ride back to-morrow. Mrs Simpson went in a day ahead to get ready for she is cook & Rusty stayed down there to help her. so haven't seen him

Newlums will spend to-morrow night here. if good day go to Kefields Wed. & back to Banff for night. Then to Stampede in Calgary & on maybe to Campbells for a day & home -

Must run

Loads of love to all

Catherine.

ab

Banff, Alta.
Fri. July 15, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

I don't seem to have found any writing time lately and now am not sure if I will catch the mail to-night. To tell the truth we have had some awfully hot weather this week, even up to 80 and over ninety in Calgary. The sun has been so intense and it feels even a bit humid for here, anyway it's a good excuse not to have written much.

Think I last wrote up at Bow Lake after the Newburys had started on their pack trip to Hecter Lake. We stayed in that vicinity until they came back in, so we had a bit more time with them that way, they left for the Stampede yesterday about 10.30 and then on towards home. Had a wonderful trip and are talking of coming back for a longer pack trip some day. Bert, Rusty and Sammy went with Jimmy Simpson across to Margaret Lake to fish on Monday, caught 11 and the rest rode down the valley for 8 miles, then they all came back Tuesday. We had that evening together at Bow Lake, then they started at 7 A.M. Wednesday cooking their breakfast at the Waterfowl Lake campground and were up at the ice-fields in time to get a ride up onto the Glacier on a snowmobile. On the return made a side trip to the Great Divide to be in B.C. for a few moments and back to Banff very hot and sleepy that afternoon. Had another steak dinner with us and then left the following A.M. They were in these parts almost a week so we were lucky.
~~xxx~~

We got your letter about Cousin Harriet yesterday, How fortunate in a way that Mildred was nearby to attend to things. but hard on her in that awful heat. I shall always remember how very bright Cousin Harriet was the last time we called on her, jumping up quicker than any of us. She really was remarkable. Will Mildred be the one to look over all the things or does Tom Bostworth have that to do? There should be lots of interesting things and a lot as old as Cousin Harriet herself!

Our days have been pretty full lately. Sunday ^{at Bow Lake} we were with Dorothy Whyte who went up with us all on Saturday, finished the picnic lunch by the lake shore, may have told you all that. Dorothy ~~left~~ ^{got} on the bus about 5 o'clock and we had supper with the Lewises who had gone on just a one day ride but really enjoyed it. They left the next morning at 6 o'clock and we were up to wave them off. Then we didn't know which way to go painting, It got sort of overcast and a flat light so we drove to the Waterfowl lakes for the first time this year and saw the Dick Birds who are living in the game wardens cabin there, they are the ones who take such wonderful bird and animal pictures, a lot for Walt Disney, and also lecture at the big hotels in summer, all over the States in winter. Had a nice chat with them, Then we drove back to the Bow Lake vicinity but the light was poor the bugs terrific. In the afternoon we climbed up to the Fire Lookout above the Peyto Lookout.

There is a road from the Lookout parking space and it was good exercise, took us about 50 minutes and we had to wade through drifts of snow still left from last winter. Lots of it at a gulley near the top. The view was lovely, looks down on Bow Lake as well as the valley north and south. was good for us to get the exercise.

Pete had promised to show the game warden how to develop a film so we went back there about 3 o'clock. He lives in a little house half way between Bow Lake and the Summit, his wife was in the hospital but 2 from the wardens were building a wall so he had to be around. Took us 2 hours there and then as a thunder storm came up we decided to go to Bow Lake for a hot meal. Met the Nelson Boles who had just arrived from Eureka California and ate with them. The Leightons who are also artists were there too so it was quite an evening in the end and we all watched the lovely light on the mountains.

Tuesday we decided with so many artists around (Mr Boles is an amateur painter) that we would go to the end of the lake where we weren't likely to be disturbed, The reflections were lovely and the flies and mosquitos the worst they have been, actually so bad we finally gave up. It is almost impossible to do anything worthwhile with so many bugs, Then we made lunch and up to the Wardens again to see how his film looked and later watched and took pictures of the Newburys coming in. It was another lovely day, they really were lucky with the weather. Jonny went with them, he had a great time and it was fun for the boys to have him as he is good with little kids. Rusty came along back with them, Mrs Simpson having gone out to the highway and gotten a ride I guess.

We didn't see much of Rusty as he went to Hector a day ahead and was there with Mrs Simpson. I guess she was glad to have him for one day three very rough looking men walked in, must have waded the river, They wanted the boat, but she told them it was a private camp. She said that Rusty just walked out behind her from the cabin and never said a word and the men left. She really enjoyed Rusty but I expect nearly talked his head off for she is too deaf to do much of the listening. Then when the outfit came in Rusty did a lot of the unpacking and went off with the boys, eats with the staff so just saw him for a few minutes after supper. He went fishing with Bert, Jimmy and Sammy to Margarets lake so that was nice. Jimmy said he is working out fine, and told me he is more reliable than the men he has looking after the horses, if not as experienced. He seemed pretty good at wrangling horses to me, for when they rode in, a car going the wrong way past the lodge scared one pack horse and Rusty was the one to head it in the right direction to the Corral.

The Newburys were pretty hot when they got in so all had showers etc. and then we had supper with them and listened to the chuck wagon races over the radios in the cars, Nancy saw a beaver in the lake too. they went to bed fairly early as they were to get an early start next morning for the Icefields.

Wednesday was another lovely day and very hot sun. They left at 7 A.M. cooked their breakfast at the Waterfowl lake campground and then on to the Icefields. We left early for Banff, did the

usual errands etc. which takes time these days with the extra large crowds of people. Verne was here and there was quite a bit of running around. The Newbury's came about 4.30, hot and very sleepy and went off to get their cabin and showers, though they had stopped for a quick dip in Bow Lake. Nancy went off to see where the band music came from so the park (various school bands from the stampede have been up lately) and then back here, and the Morrants dropped in and we had gingerale outside, then it was time for me to get supper, another steak dinner as they had seemed to like the first one enough. Linnie Becker arrived with a birthday present she had made me at school, a bright red and plaid apron, so stayed for desert and her father picked her up later as she has a sprained ankle. We had a good time and Jonny came in and out too. The Newbury's all went back fairly early for they were to go to the stampede the next day. We saw them for a few minutes the next morning about ten and they got away for Calgary at 10.30.

Thursday was sort of a let down after they left. We had been over town soon after 8 to try and find out about campgrounds or cabins south of Calgary but no luck in even getting to the desk there were so many people asking about reservations. and then after the Newburys left Verne came and Pete helped him mount a reproduction of a Danish painting while I did errands. It was awfully tiring doing errands this week, so hard to find a place to park and slow driving about and then one feels one should lock the car with so many people and with the hot sun it was like getting into an oven each time. We had the new clutch adjusted at one and as Pete wanted to develop films and I had a bit of a headache I reclined and read the newspaper until I was too sleepy and almost took a nap. But someone knocked on the door. I thought it was Jonny as the dog barked nearby, and Pete being in the dark room couldn't answer, so I didn't either, wasn't all dressed anyway. About an hour later a car drove in and Pete went to the door this time. It was Huntsinger and his wife with the Griffiths of Calgary. He works in the same building I think as Russell and with Jim Orr I believe, has something to do with gas and oil and was out here a couple of years ago. I got up and redressed a bit and they stayed about an hour. The Huntsinger (I think that is the way one spells it) is awfully attractive, her first trip west, went to Pierce with Frances, her first name is Betty I think and she came out to Concord I guess to your house years ago with Frances, lives in Westen, her first trip west and was interested in everything. Griffith is an oil man from Texas I think, also has wheat interests. It was nice to see them, They hadn't gone very long and I was starting to iron the wash I had done that morning, when Dorothy Whyte dropped in. We had quite a thunder storm and heavy rain so she stayed to supper, and as she had had a cold lunch we had a real supper, liver and bacon and had to shop for that. It is convenient living a block from the main street. and the stores in bumper stay open until nine P.M. We took her to the school and saw her paintings and by then it was nearly our bed time. Forgot we had 3 Indians before supper wanting to borrow a bit!

Yesterday was a more restful day and we needed it. Left the Jeep in the garage so guess it looked as if we were out. I washed the woolen shirts and socks and silk things, and we did errands early when it was cooler. After lunch the Vallances dropped in. Sid on business about Pete's mother's affairs and the ladies to tell about

their activities and the Stampede parade etc. Here nearly an hour.

It was still hot so I did another wash which ordinarily I would have done to-day, have most everything cleaned up as Indian Days are next, we were going out early this morning up to the Peyto Lookout for the warden said he would give us the key and we could camp up the road a way towardsthe fire lookout, (but when it looked a settled in rain this morning we changed our minds.) Yesterday afternoon I ironed the shirts after the Vallances left and then helped Pete for an hour in the dark room doing some prints. No one came luckily and we had a nice quiet evening - listened to the chuck wagon races while I turned a couple of collars on shirts.

Now it is Saturday morning and Pete is experimenting making negatives from the Polaroid pictures and I should go shopping soon. It is clearing so may be a nice weekend after all. We might go up towards Bow Monday for a couple of days and then next week will be very busy with the Indians arriving Wednesday. The following week we are going to Standoff in the south of the province to a big sun dance and then drop in on the Campbells and up the forestry road.

I have so many letters to write and notes I should try and do those this weekend if we don't go out.

Please tell Mercelia that I will be writing her soon to thank her for the lovely little fork. We used it when the Hewbury's were here and your lovely spoons too, they were just right,

Loads of love to you all.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, July 17, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Every time I have written lately I get rushed at the end before I can tell you everything I mean to. So as I find yesterday I forgot to mail my letter to you I will open it and stick this page in.

It was awfully thoughtful of you to suggest sending some money to Jim Simpson so he could pay Rusty at the end of his time at Bow Lake. As a matter of fact we had offered to do the same for we know the Simpsons are working hard to pay off the building and were afraid that Rusty might eat more than he could help.

Jimmy had him go down to Hector Lake and stay with Mrs Simpson while they came back for the Newburys so that was a big help and Mrs Simpson enjoyed his company and help, said he was wonderful in the way he handled a boat, and guess he cut the firewood etc. also helped with the horses. Jimmy said he is far more reliable than the two men he has working on the horses, you can count on Rusty but can't always depend on the other men, though of course they are more experienced. We didn't see much of Rusty this last trip as he was at Hector until the last day and he eats with the Simpsons and staff earlier than the rest of us. but if we go up before Indian Days will maybe have a chance to talk a bit and see how things are going.

If you still want to send the Simpsons something for Rusty's work we are sure it would be a good idea, They might take out enough to cover the cost of his meals and then give him the rest in wages. You do what you like, and if you don't want to we can do it from this end. So Rusty will have the feeling he has been earning something this summer. I know he is a help to the Simpsons but they might not have felt they could afford the extra boy this summer, though they are delighted to have Rusty there.

We were going out again but decided it is too distracting on weekends with the bugs and extra people, so might go early in the morning for one or two nights. Indian Days start this week, 20th to the 25th for us, then we are planning to go to the south of the province to a Sun Dance with more teepees than the Morley ones have and stop a couple of days if not too hot at the Campbells and then back the forestry road.

Had lots of company yesterday, Gladys Ashmole of *England* dropped in about 11 A.M. stayed for half an hour and asked if she could come back in the afternoon, Pete was doing films so I said yes, she came at 2 o'clock, the Morants came too to borrow a ladder and Pete went with them, Gladys and I sat in the shade outdoors when Dorothy Whyte dropped in, she is leaving Monday for a few days at Bow Lake, we had tea and then I drove them both home. But the afternoon was a loss as far as writing letters or doing things were concerned. Then in the evening Vince Allen and his brother Art came aound. Art is a local boy studying to be an architect.

Had a nice visit until ten. Vince is ^{working} in New York now ^{on a rest home} his little boy drops in quite often on his bike. Oh. Yes Nick Morant came back before supper with some film for Pete and stayed until after six talking.

Pete is experimenting to see if he can make copies of the pictures I take with the polaroid camera, we took some of the Newbury's the morning they left and they came out well enough for them to want some too, and to get copies one has to send the original picture to Chicago, sort of a nuisance.

Loads of love once more

Catherine

P.S. We were wondering if you ever thought of getting one of those cooling things you can put in a window? Bert said he had one in his office in Boston and finds it a great help. They got one for Mrs Chamberlin despite her protests the summer she was in bed with a broken hip, she objected to the looks at first but they went ahead and put it in and she was very glad of it afterward. You could put it into one room, even the back guest room, and it would cool that room so you could sit somewhere in comfort during the hot weather. Or you could put it into one of the back windows of your own bedroom and it would make it nicer day and night. All the places in California and the southern states use them, like the motels etc. Bert would get it for you I am sure. Think they have fans or some arrangement where the fresh air is brought into the room and cooled just a little.

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. July 20, 1955

Dearest Mother,

The Indians start coming in to-day so thought while Pete is having an oil change for the car I would rattle off a letter to you, might not get much time later.

Have been rather busy, people dropping in as usual. Sunday was a very quiet day and no one came until Dorothy at supper time and we rather expected her, she was leaving the next morning for a few days up at Bow Lake so it was the last chance for a visit and she was here all evening and we drove her back up to the school.

Monday we had thought of going out but decided it would be better to get things done here, it was still warm. Miss Ashmole dropped in just before lunch to ask about Revelstoke so as she had a sausage roll with her we warmed that up and she ate with us instead of picnicing by the river. I had done all the wash in the morning that was left over and cleaned the house too. Took Gladys A. over town, did a couple more errands and came back to find Jonny wanting work, he clipped grass all afternoon and Sam also was down. Then Peter Tasker and his wife and baby came in for gingerale etc. on their way back to Bow Lake, and after supper Mr Lonsdale with a sketch and then as there hadn't been any mail *AM.* we went by the post office. Lucky we did for there was your nice letter, one from Rusty asking us to make his reservations back home leaving Calgary the night of Aug. 2nd. and what looked like a card from Hanne for Rusty. Suddenly occurred to me it must be Rusty's birthday soon. So after taking a short drive and planning our next two weeks a bit, I looked up my old diary when we got back and sure enough the 19th. was the day. and that was yesterday.

We had planned to go up to Bow Lake after Indian days but when we realized yesterday was Rusty's birthday decided to run up for the day. Were up at 6 o'clock and packed the Jeep in case we wanted to spend the night, then spoke for his reservation, got some Indian mocassins for a present, a box of candy and a watermelon, the cakes weren't baked so early, but we found later that Wayne the cook was to back one at Bow Lake for him as a surprise.

is
Were just ready to leave when Dorothy Gow who was a daughter of Tex Woods married to an ex-mountie policeman who is still in Korea, dropped in. She was in a lot of difficulty with her youngest of 4 children sick, a ranch to run over in the Windermere and her husband who was to come home in June having to stay longer in Korea. So we had to help her out a bit but it only took half an hour or so and we got away by 11. Worked out well for we got through the construction on the road at noon hour, no one working. Had a bite at the end of the lake and sent the

afternoon at the Simpsons. Rusty had been out riding with a party all morning and was going next day on another trip to Hector lake, He had a nice talk with Pete in the Jeep while I looked up Dorothy who was really surprised to see us.

I think Rusty was quite pleased to have his birthday remembered and he also got a wire from the family and would be having a cake and no doubt a bit of kidding that night.

It also gave us a chance to plan on his return for we are going to Standoff to a Sundance in the south of the province after Indian Days and were planning to stop at the Campbells afterwards but now will go to the Campbells first and then the Sundance on the 29th. an air show on the 30th and back in time to drive Rusty to Calgary on the 2nd. The Simpsons will bring him down that morning. We asked Rusty if he wanted to come in and do anything in Banff, like see the Chair Lift and where they ski etc. but he wasn't interested and doesn't care about Indian Days either. So we won't try to complicate things, are hoping to get some materials to work from both Indian Days and the Sundance.

It's a little hard to tell whether Rusty is really enjoying Bow Lake or not. He says he likes it but isn't as interested in things as he was as a little boy. I think it is mostly his age, for seems to me all the boys go through a sort of awkward age when they aren't really at ease anywhere. Jimmy says that Rusty has been a great help and worked out fine. is very good with horses and he told us he brought up 3 ^{ponies} from Hector Lake alone the other day. and also when a young lad staying at the lodge didn't return from a hike by late afternoon, Jimmy got worried and sent Rusty off on horse back to look for him. He found him O.K. and brought him home. They are trying to give him as much experience as possible. Big Jim had hoped to interest him Rusty in Fossils and Geology and things like that but guess he doesn't take after Grandpa any more than his father did. Everyone has a different makeup. Probably when Rusty gets back home he will find that he learn't a lot in other ways after working a month at Bow. Young Jimmy said that he has been so good with the horses and all that he is planning to pay him, which he finds he can do for "casual labor" to a student. *They all like Rusty very much.*

I haven't mentioned the awful climbing accident on Mt. Temple but guess it was in all your newspapers too. It was just terrible and everyone here felt awful about it. Especially as it was so unnecessary. It was like someone who had sailed a little boat on a lake going to ~~the~~ a seaport, hiring a big schooner and sending out 16 boys alone to sail the ocean. *Pete says you can be experienced when young but judgement comes with age -*

It is hard to understand how 2 such inexperienced men could take all those boys on a trip like that. Seems the man in charge, Dickerson was off on a shopping trip to Lake Louise ^{with some boys} to buy supplies and sent the rest of the boys up with a man named Ceser to climb Mt. Temple from Moraine Lake. For a climb like that people always start at 3 or 4 A.M. and are back down as early as possible in the afternoon before the snow starts sliding if it is going to slide. They also dress for all weather and they

(They didn't start until 9.30 AM.)

certainly don't go without enquiring from a Swiss Guide or *Game Warden or*
an Alpine Club member about conditions. Oeser started with the
boys and then according to his testimony at the Inquest he left
them on the mountain to go down, didn't like heights and wanted to
take photographs, the boys said he had a blister on his foot.
He told the kids to turn back if it was dangerous, as if young
boys would know how dangerous it was. Four or five did come back
and the others turned round later. They had roped themselves to-
gether as some were slipping. Real mountaineers never put more than
4 on a rope 100 feet long and they had 11 on a 50 foot rope. *ship boots.*
They also wore such light weight clothes that most of them died of
exposure when they were caught. It was just dreadful the whole
thing. Dickerson tried to blame the wardens for not warning them
but no one can prevent people from taking foolish risks, and
they didn't really do any enquiring except from people at the
campground and lodges who said they didn't know themselves.

The leader said he gave the boys instructions in mountain
climbing, a 20 minute lecture before they set out but Oeser wasn't
there. If he had to come down he should never have left the boys.
The doctors who went up was sure several would have survived if
they had had warm clothing with them or even a sweater, some had
no underwear. *Several were alive & died on the mountainside
from cold & shock.*
Must run now.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. July 24, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Indian Days are about over for another year, It has been awfully hot but good weather and big crowds, lots of dust and too many cars and trucks belonging to the Indians rather spoiling the effect of the camp, but we have taken a lot of pictures by going down each morning at 8 A.M. before the parade and in the evening or late afternoon, otherwise one gets far too weary.

Think I wrote you Wednesday morning after going up to Bow Lake for a quick trip to see Rusty on his birthday. Edmee Moore came in that evening after we got back but luckily didn't stay late as we were rather tired.

Wednesday was a nice day but strong wind, we went to the grounds soon after lunch and saw our old friends. David Bearspaw and his wife, the Riders and George and Mrs McLean who came as usual in the wagon, he driving the team and Mrs McLean reclining in the back on all the stuff. We tried to get pictures of them putting up their teepees and were there until about 4. Then came back to town for the boxes of food we usually give the old people we know best. Eggs, butter, oranges, bacon, bread and cake and jam. saying hello and a welcome at the same time. We always get a few requests. This time George Kaquits brought his daughters gabadine jackets to be ironed, hamburger for the Bearspaws (being easy to chew) Good-Stony at the gate wanted to get a "one man mattress" and so it went. I ironed the coats after supper, the meat was easy, and happened to meet Nellie Mackenzie and she said they had ~~one~~ a ^{nature} little stained and took it down that evening. We also went later when the shadows are long and the light nice, and Tom Powderface found his big Teepee was mildewed when they got it to bring up and was so old it fell apart, they ~~came~~ anyway and it was getting dark and they were still without a teepee, Pete thought we had one so up ~~down~~ we came and couldn't find it (Sam had used it and it was in his shop) so luckily found Claude Brewster who loaned one from the Trail Riders and we got that up at their barns and down again to the grounds just in time for them to ~~put~~ it up before dark. We stayed long enough to see the glow in the teepees which is so nice, a sort of warm, pinkish light it seemed that evening.

Thursday we were up early enough to get down to the grounds by 8 A.M. and were the only ones taking pictures, I tried a roll of color in the movie but don't know how it will work out, Pete is taking black and white of details that might be useful in future paintings, and to remember things better, how the papoose is carried etc. Then instead of going to the parade uptown where we knew the crowds would be terrific we stayed on and Pete took some pictures of David and Mrs Bearspaw inside their teepee. Then back to do errands before lunch. In the afternoon the sun was so hot and the light so glaring we decided not to go down to the events and Pete developed film, then just as we were about to start for the grounds ~~about~~ and went to the store first to get David a sweater,

who should be shopping but Mrs Belmore Browne and Tibby, George's wife with the two little children. We asked them over for a cup of tea as we never did see them last year. and had a nice if confusing visit as the children were pretty lively and both Tibby and Mrs Browne had so much to tell us. Mrs Browne thinks Mrs Charlotte Browne (who was a cousin of Belmore Brownes) the most wonderful person and Belmore thought Sally Brown just about the nicest one of all. They saw a lot of the Brownes and she said they have been so good to Evelyn. ~~After~~ ^{After} they left we went back to the Indian Grounds and were just taking a few pictures of the rations being given out when I met Johnny Bearspaw who said he had just been told his father was pretty sick.

Over we went to the teepee and found old David hadn't missed a trick that afternoon, no doubt did a bit too much for his age and had a heart attack, the nurse from Morely was there and gave him a shot of something but she told Pete he was pretty low and she couldn't get a pulse at all, rather wanted a doctor to see him so we went up town as fast as we could in the traffic and ran into a jam, Pat Costigan was off duty but said either Dr Titamore or Dr Mackenzie would be at the clinic at 7 o'clock. We got a parking place right in front and ate our sandwiches there until Dr Titamore came. Then I went back down while Pete went with Titamore, just avoiding the parade of the Cadets pipe band and goodness knows what.

Dr Titamore had never treated an Indian before and was quite interested. He prescribed some pills to help and said there was nothing more he could do unless David went to the hospital and was given oxygen. He didn't think he would last very long without it. neither did the nurse though he had rallied a bit. Jonny thought it would help if he had a mattress to lie on instead of just the ground, so we got our rubber mattress and blew it up, everyone helping to pump it. Then Pete the nurse and Johnny went into the Teepee to move David onto it. I stayed in the Jeep. Pete said it was quite wonderful. When David saw him, he wanted to sit up and crosslegged and then said a prayer in Stoney which Johnny translated to Pete, He said " My Son. I will soon be leaving you ~~for a better place~~ I don't want you to be sad happy for I am going to a better place . " or words to that affect. He wanted to die in his teepee in Banff and didn't want to be moved. We said goodnight to him and that we would see him to-morrow, though we really didn't expect to. and then went home. Just as we drove into the yard the MacKenzies came along in their car so came in for half an hour or so.

Next morning bright and early we went down to the grounds wondering if David was alive or not. He was still sleeping but after a while we saw him coming out of the teepee looking quite himself but he slept most of that day. We took a few pictures but did as we had done the day before and didn't go to the events during the hot part of the afternoon. We brought Mary Kottenay and her family uptown to shop and I took Gladys Ashmole down with some meat for Mrs Rider's dinner and we watched a small teepee being put up. Sam was here and we planned a tool shed for Barbara , it was still very hot. We didn't go back down until 4.30 and took our supper with us and got a number of pictures which Pete developed when we got home. While I did odd laundry etc. about the house. About 9 PM. a man came to the door who I didn't recognize at first. It was Fred

Feidler his wife and two children who we met on the way west ^{2 days ago} in Bismark North Dakota and the next night in Nashua, Montana and who then came on up here, they always remember us at Christmas with a nice letter and wanted us to see how the children had grown. Had been to the concert at the Hotel and on their way to Eisenhower where they had a cabin for the night. Wanted to see us when they came back in to Banff next week and when I said we might be away wondered if they couldn't come in then, "just for a minute!" Pete was still in the dark room but we had quite a visit, and then Gray Campbell's sister Betts and husband Ted Eligh called in. They are from Ottawa and here just over the weekend. It was quite a busy evening for us and we were tired when they all left about 10.30.

Saturday we again went to the grounds to see the Indians get ready for the parade, they were tired and a little late too. David was a bit better and we saw him come out, sit on a chunk of wood to rest, then Mrs Bears paw who is very old and stooped came and they walked very slowly over to some logs behind the teepee, for their are no modern conveniences in a teepee. We paid no attention and pretty soon back them came. But later he was not as well, Jonny told us two of the medicine men had come in the night before and said prayers which had helped but we don't think he will live very much longer. When we were down this morning all the Indians one after another were going in to pay their last respects. Am sure there were 20 in there at one time for they kept coming out two or three at a time.

Saturday morning we also went to see an old friend, Jenny Edwards here for a few days, Pete did films in the afternoon and I washed a few things and had a shower and felt a bit cooler. The humidity has been unusually high for here and the sun too hot to stand out in for very long. We went to the grounds later but came back for supper. Pete took pictures of the rations being given out and it's always more fun when the general public isn't there. Pete was in the darkroom after a late supper when Vince Allen came, I hadn't even finished the dishes, we had a nice talk about his trip to Kitamat and then Eileen Harmon came to see if we had a projector, which we didn't and as the MacIntoshes from Philadelphia were with her and Lillian Gest a great mountain climber and Hans Gabl the Austrian guide, they all came in. Dr and Mrs MacIntosh have been at Assinaboine since July 4th. and had wonderful weather all the time. He is the vice president of Haverford College, such fine people and easy too. interested in everything from the sketches to the Indian things, kept me busy for Pete couldn't get out of the darkroom right off as he was in the midst of doing films, Then Dr and Mrs Riley arrived before the others left, with frozen lobster tails to stow away in our frig. It seemed a lot of people. *Carole Harmon Eileen's little niece was here too*

Sunday and we slept late, until nearly 8.30. Had been wakened in the night by people in canoes singing and laughing and joking and until one canoe upset and then there was great shouting you could hear all over town as the couple scrambled onto the further bank. They were shouting for someone to catch the canoe and then to find the way to the wharf through the bushes. Such a commotion, Pete heard the man say "Darling, I'll get you a diamond ring for going through all this, I still love you." he thought a mink coat might be more useful. *It was 1.20 AM.*

It is now nearly 4 O'clock and we are having a bit of a thunder storm, quite a shower, may go to the grounds later. Some wanted us to play the recorder to-night but we aren't too anxious and it doesn't seem appropriate with David so sick.

We had thought of starting to-day for Standoff where there is to be a Sundance we want to see at the end of the week, but with David so ill we don't think we can leave until perhaps Tuesday. Betts told us that the Campbells are in the midst of haying and have to work from dawn until sunset and so ~~won't~~ want to be there for long. We are planning to go to the ranch first so as to be back in time to drive Rusty to Calgary. on August 2nd. Had a nice letter from Russ yesterday but he seemed to think Rusty would stay until the middle of August. However we left it up to Rusty to decide as he knows best what he wants to do.

Must get ready to go again, we seem to be back and forth all the time and no chance to sit down for long. what with meals and things to do like watering the garden etc.

Hope you aren't still having hot weather but with the two weeks hot here you may get it too.

Loads of love
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. July 31, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We are just back from our quick trip south and now that we have gotten Marglyn Bell safely across the channel over the radio perhaps I can write a bit of a letter to you to mail when we go up to the Post Office, should be a few letters there for us after being away since Wednesday. There didn't seem a good chance to write you on the trip and I was just too sleepy each evening. Better just start at the beginning, otherwise I get mixed.

Had thought of going Tuesday afternoon and stopping at the Brownes in Seebe but it was over cast and the Hugh John MacDonalds of Edmonton came to see us. They stayed until five and it was so nice seeing them that we didn't hurry and thought an early start next morning just as good.

Got away after breakfast at 6.30 and made good time. It was a lovely day and beautiful cloud affects and real cool so we made good time. Went down the forestry road from Seebe to what they call "The Gap" about 25 miles from Cowley. It has been built as a trunk road to service the various mountain valleys and help prevent fires etc. The road is gravel but as good or better than the Jasper highway and no traffic to speak of, not a filling station, only a couple of cabins, the wardens places and an oil well in the 142 miles and we met just 3 cars and 2 trucks in all the way. Had lunch at the Gap, it was pretty windy, and then went on the ~~inty~~ tiny road that goes through alongside a river, ^{the only} the only opening in the mountain chain. It is the place where they drive the cattle through each spring and fall for they graze up in the mountains in the summer. Then we tried to cross over to the otherside of the main valley to the Porcupine Hills where the Campbells are. Had been across once the other way with Gray so it wasn't too easy to find. We made a few wrong turns across fields but asked some people, a man haying and another man on the scraper and reached the Campbells about 2 P.M. It really is lovely country and still green for the spring was late, the wildflowers still lovely.

They were all there, Gray trying to figure how to fix a wooden box on a plow he had borrowed and which was used for weight and had just broken that morning, El was in the privy, which amused me, for I am invariably caught in the bathroom by people knocking at our door. The kids all came running the moment they spotted the sheep and gave us a great welcome. Grays sister from Ottawa and her little adopted girl were there, (they left on Friday) and it was nice to have a chance to meet her. Everything looked green and we admired the garden with the vegetables coming up, the two new granaries which they are using as guest rooms, one for Ethel Pillings mother and the other Dane was in as Betts was in the house (Grays sister) "e also looked at the pigs and then ~~laterx@grayxtookxus~~ the farmer who owned the plow came with his wife and 2 kids and they had tea, We also watched Gray show how the hay rake worked behind the big tractor and then

after the neighbors left Gray took us with Dane on a tour of the ranch to see all the fields. They have 2200 acres now which is quite a lot but gives them summer and winter pasture and also farming land besides the hay fields. We drove through one hay field that Dane had been cutting for 4 hours that morning. He drives the little tractor with the mower and does awfully well, in fact as well as a man though he is only 11 years old. I thought he was older. He is a quiet, serious boy and very careful and they pay him for his work. ~~\$21x~~ \$2.00 a day. He had cut the hay in large square patches as it was more fun that way, he certainly knows a lot and took into account how the wind was blowing etc.

We were amused when Gray pointed out some oats (I think they were) that he had planted and one patch was a lighter green than the other from the distance. He remarked ~~now~~ on it and wondered why and Dane in his quiet way said "don't you remember the top field you worked twice before planting and the other only once. or something like that. Later on when we came to the large field of wheat which was hailed out last summer just before it was ready to cut I think, it was Dane who wanted to see how the heads were filling out. jumped out of the Jeep and got a few samples, just as interested as anyone. It is wonderful ~~got~~ Gray to have a boy so great a help. The field seeded itself after the hail had knocked it down and they call it a "volunteer crop" It is not as thick or even as a carefully planted one but looked very good to us and of course has come up with little effort on their part.

We also admired the field that Eleanor planted herself last fall the morning we arrived. If only they don't get hail and have good weather for harvesting. They were only just starting to hay. El cooked us a wonderful supper of home grown things, most everything but the coffee. chicken in the pressure cooker, salad and onions and radishes from the ranch, milk, cream, butter and home made bread, ate much too much, and we were all so sleepy we went to bed before ten, we sleeping in the Jeep.

Thursday we left about 9.30 for Fort MacLeod, stopping luckily at the garage in Cowley for gas and the man discovered our fan belt would have come loose had we gone much further so fixed that. ~~Then~~ We went to the motel we had been to before in Fort MacLeod and got one we could cook in. two rooms with bath, very nice and the people remembered us from the time we were there over 2 years ago. Had lunch and then went to Standoff about 18 miles away where the Blood Indians were staging a sort of Sundance and ceremony on Friday to make C.D. Howe minister of trade and commerce a ~~man~~ chief. The camp was pretty well set up similar to the one when Lord Alexander was also made a chief 5 years ago. About 14 tepees and the rest tents forming a large circle on the side of a gentle slope and overlooking the whole valley for miles around to the rockies in the distance, a wonderful setting.

Gray had written to the Indian Agent who he knew, Larry Hunter, and we thought we should see him first in case the Indians didn't like white people and strangers around the day before. We found an Indian in Standoff named Rufus *Good Stuben* a policeman and he told Pete the Agent was in Cardston so we went there, only to find he was up at the Sundance, so back we came another 20 miles, helped tow some Indians in a car up the long hill and got into the camp

to find Mr Hunter had just passed us on his way out! However we stayed around for a while and Pete took a few pictures and then we returned to Fort Macleod. rather nice having a place to go back to each evening. It had been awfully windy and that is rather tiring.

Friday was overcast and not too good for pictures but it was more comfortable for standing and watching. We went out to the Sundance early in the morning and ate a couple of sandwiches there. It is always fun to watch the people, Indian or otherwise. One young Indian, a Blackfoot from Cluny, who is married to a Stony girl and who we met first while watching the Sun Dance at Morley, came and spoke to us. He is a good chicken dancer and was asked to dance with the rest. His name is Alec Scalplock. They sat and talked to us until it was time for him to go and dress. I could remember from the last time we were there that they danced in an enclosure made of snow fence for a long time before the dignitaries arrived and that we couldn't get a good place for pictures the first time. So we went early to stand by the fence and had a front row view of the whole proceedings, we stood for 3 hours in all and much of it well squashed with Indian children standing on our feet but it was worth it and we hope we got some pictures that ~~wixh~~ will be worth while. I will send you some of the clippings.

We were rather weary when we finally got back to MacLeod and had a chinese supper that night, not too good but tasted) O.K.

Saturday was abig Air Show in Lethbridge in honor of Howe and we were interested in seeing that ~~xxx~~ as it was only 35 or 40 miles from MacLeod. It looked like rain but was cool and we thought we would go anyway. Went early to go to the Jeep place and see if they had a station wagon on display, then as they didn't went on out to the Air port. Had to just follow in line and as we got there about 10.30 we were parked in the front line and had a good view of everything. continued in my next.

Loads of love
Catharine

Barruff.
Wed. Thurs
Apr 4 1955

Dearest Mother.

No chance to write again after seeing Rusty off on plane Tuesday night. Too many visitors yesterday so we are just going out on a sketching trip. Haven't painted since June. Too much going on. Think we will go up towards Jager.

Rusty has the pictures of the paintings. The large one is 7 feet by 30 inches the 10 smaller ones 5 ft. by 20 inches. Thanks too for the checks. Will write more first chance.

Heaps of love
Catharine

Columbia Fields
Friday, Aug 5, 1955

Dearest Mother,

We are at the Fields on a sketching & camping trip, our first since June when we don't have to be in by a certain date & so far have been very lucky with the weather. Frost this morning on the wild strawberry leaves & a tang of autumn in the air. Our summers don't last very long - but the sun is pretty hot yet.

Have a whole week of doings to tell you about, always seems simpler & less confusing if I start at the beginning or where I left off last letter. We were going to the Air Show in Lethbridge honoring Mr. Howe (I cut out the newspaper clippings but am afraid they are lost in the confusion of papers at home). He is the Canadian (Cabinet) Minister of Trade & Commerce & has done more to build up Canada's Air force & Trans Canada Airlines etc than anyone. I'm always interested because he was born in Waltham, Mass. & I think went to M. I. T. was a Professor in Nova Scotia until he went into Government Service.

It was last Saturday & didn't look too promising a day for an Air Show but we went anyway. Drove the 35 miles from Maple to Lethbridge & were nice & early - about 10.30 at the Airport - were parked in the front line of hundreds of cars, right opposite the receiving stand, a wide field in between but meant we had lots to watch while we waited until 2 P.M.

Several planes were opened for inspection. The newest jets, the Victors, Viscounts, the newest for Passenger service & many others. One climbed up to a wooden platform & could look into cockpits or walk through the Viscount now being used on T.C.A.

Pete was more interested than I, they all looked a mass of instruments & dials in the cockpits but it was fun, & little boys were having great fun climbing in & out of cockpits of the training planes & shifting levers & moving anything they could. I wondered if they would damage something but there was usually an Air Force man watching & I suppose it encourages boys to become flyers. They say the jet pilots have to be 19 or ^{in their} 20's. 25 years old is considered old for a jet pilot.

An Orrenda jet engine was being dismantled & on exhibition to Carl Oskander was doing the explaining, much surprised to see us in the on-lookers. & strangely enough when we were leaving in the traffic jam of hundreds of cars, who should walk in front of us but his wife & daughter.

The Air Force Pipe Band was very good & then sharp at 2 P.M. the show opened with a jet plane breaking the sound barrier. Don't know if it was such a good idea. It was overcast, lovely big clouds & we couldn't actually see the plane flying above them but the announcer told us saying 5 seconds, 4 sec. etc. Then a rather distant boom & we could feel the shock when the plane went faster than sound & then down came the rain & everyone had to run & get in their cars. Trained for 5 or more minutes. Pete is sure it was the plane breaking the sound barrier that caused it, for years ago in California he watched a man make it rain with explosions in the air.

after that there were numerous flights of from 5 to 6 planes in formation, Aerobatics by a jet & other plane & several times a few jets would zoom over with a really frightening noise. One group so low we couldn't help ducking & covering our ears. The noise terrific &

they seemed to appear from nowhere they fly so fast, over 500 miles an hour I think they were going. The general thing were 3 B29 planes of the U.S. Air force refueling & jets in the air as they came over in perfect formation. The B29s on either side having 4 jets to the side & one after the other would go up behind like a hummingbird to a larkspur. They were high above us.

They took photographs of each thing as they went over & was really pleased as it was the first time he had tried to take anything like that & using an almost telephoto lens it was hard to get them. I tried a couple at the end. With his glasses it's not easy to see through a finder. So many lenses to focus through. He never missed one.

Took us an hour to get out of the traffic jam but we were back in Maplewood in good time. Had an amusing supper at the Palomino Restaurant. Seems the cook had never shown up or let them know she wasn't coming, & it was a busy Saturday night. Even the waitresses were doing some of the cooking. but we enjoyed watching the mixture of people. local families. Indians. Bullerites Ranchers & in the midst of it all tourists. Very fashionable ones as well as the kind in pedal pushers & shorts. Some from New York. others California, in fact from all over the states. They looked so out of place somehow. from a different world though actually they all fitted in together very well.

Sunday we got an early start. left at 6.30 & were in Banff by 11 A.M. without having too much trouble with Sunday traffic on the way to the mountains. It was overcast but didn't rain. Pate developed films all afternoon. I wrote to you & some others. It was a nice quiet day for us. Only Barbara to tell us that Harold has a job on the Trans Canada Highway survey in the Redwing Horse Pass & Parys has his old job at the lake repairing one of the boats. I'm still in Calgary with the other Army Cadets for 2 weeks.

→ Mr Scott came in the evening but Pete was in the dark room.

Monday we did all sorts of things. Washed clothes etc. had a man come to see the old Oil Burner wanting perhaps to buy it. Verne was over → Sam. Bob to put a new shower head on our shower etc. After lunch we had a lady to see at the ~~mountain~~ camp. took us for a Can't remember what else we did but that night printed some of the photographs → in the night about 1:20 A.M. got up for the fire alarm - turned out to be the shoe store between Pete's building & Nobles. 2nd fire in a year. Luckily just smoldering. Saw lots of Bauff people we haven't seen all summer!

Tuesday was the morning we expected Rusty down from Bow Lake about 10 A.M. I hustled round to clean the house up a bit & Pete finished the last film then when he hadn't come by 11:30 went to do the shopping. → of course they arrived before I got back. Jimmy & Fabrie had brought him down with David for a hair cut first.

You will have seen Rusty by now & heard all about his month at Bow Lake! They all liked him so much up there. Big Jim said his only complaint was that Rusty wasn't his own son. he said also that he's the best boy he's ever seen come out of the east, which are real compliments from Jim. Jimmy found he was very good with horses & they all said he worked hard & the last two weeks of his stay seemed to feel more at ease & was joking with the rest. The thing we liked best was when Rusty asked if he could leave his sleeping bag with us so it would be here for him next summer!

We all ate took much steak, I having gotten over 2 lbs in case some of the Simpsons stayed for lunch → in the end we ate it all. Rusty managed 3 ears of corn & 3 glasses of milk as well so guess he was hungry.

He didn't want to shop or do anything more than stay around. Wash up & we left about four for Calgary. Rusty doesn't care for sightseeing any more than you do. To tell the truth I think a person enjoys seeing things more when they are interested in taking pictures or collecting, or doing some sport like skiing or fishing.

The trip to Calgary was lovely, great thunderheads & one storm crossed over Calgary just before we arrived. It was a beautiful evening. I had made a few sandwiches though Rusty figured he couldn't eat much after the steak dinner. & we watched other planes waiting for his at 7.50. Then as soon as his took off to the east we started for Banff. Got home by 11 P.M. & almost got hit by one bolt of lightning that struck close by! So close the thump cracked & jumped to our arms felt all numb. It must have hit a tree close to the road, near Moley.

Wednesday we spent getting ready to come out. There is always a lot to get ready. Food to check. Paints, photo things, clothes etc. We keep most things in the car but you have to be sure they are in. Had a lady to see after lunch which took ages. Then ran up to Virginia Nicholl who had a day off from Bow Lake & she came over for an hour until her bus went back. Then took her to that ~~place~~ ^{to see} a girl at the Summer School. Had started to cook supper & Nick Morant came to tell us about a fire that nearly got going on Sulphur Mt. the day before. When an elderly couple came to the door so Pete went. The lady wondered if she could wash some grapes they had bought at the store? Pete pointed to the ~~garden~~ ^{garden hose} & told them they were welcome to use that, but he thought they would have liked to see inside the house! After supper ~~for~~ we had to find the Summer school girl we hadn't found earlier & when we came back I first started to water the larkspur

→ a car drove in, Kathy Lawrence a waitress who was just fired at Bow Lake, asking if we could put her & her mother up. I said we didn't rent rooms & she thought perhaps we would have extra room to put them up! Mary Simpson was furious at her check later. Did the same thing at Bow, without asking put her mother & sister up in the staff quarters.

Later another car came & Pete thinking it the same one got me to go & get rid of them. Turned out to be Laura Oakander to see the Air Show pictures & Ethel Knight & they stayed until 11 P.M. Steam bath came with the man interested in the oil blow & asked if Pete would sign a receipt. Pete was rather surprised when he was handed a 100. bill. We didn't expect cash & the amount we had asked. Lucky we didn't turn him away!

So it was nearly eleven when we got away next morning. Now its Saturday (wasn't Friday as I thought) & we are in Jasper & its hot as can be. Will write more another day -

Lots of love

Catharine

David Bearspaw hadn't died the last we heard -

15. A nice long letter from Cousin Bert - so good
of him to write us -

Bow Lake
Alberta
Tues, Aug 9, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Rusty left just a week ago & we have
been out for five days on this trip, much better weather
than last year. Hope you got the letter I mailed from
Jasper. Should have sent it Air Mail but didn't have
an envelope or stamp.

To go back we got away around eleven
on Thursday, Aug 4th. Always a lot of little things to
see & too much company the evening before. Came
right up the Jasper Highway, funny but we got gas
at the junction of the road at Lake Louise & noticed
Marshall Devant ^{new jersey} & a car full of friends at the pump.
Hadn't seen him this year so headed right for him,
he was so surprised, had quite a chat, then he moved
on & another car drove in on that side while we went
on the other. It was a Mass. car, Max & wife & son. I
whispered to Pete, do you think it's the Larry Nobles of
Goton, Russell's friends? We were just wondering when
the lady handed something over saying "Here Larry".
So Pete asked, Sure enough it was & they were on their
way home. They had written us asking if we could make
certain reservations for them at Bow & Lake Louise -
Have had a good trip.

We came in to Bow after lunch at
the end of the lake, but didn't stay long & then
headed for the Icefields. Were lucky & got the same
place we stayed last year in the campground.
Just room for one car & rather private so we
don't have to bother with curtains on the Jeep.
Cooked our supper & turned in by nine.

were up early Friday with the sun, at least when it came over the tops of the mountains. It was a lovely day & we both sketched not too successfully. Peter the tongue of the glacier & I first an upper part. Then as the light was very glaring we decided not to paint in the afternoon but take the trip on the snow mobile up the glacier which we had never done before. It is quite a trip. about 10 passengers to each "Bombardier" & they have 10 of them. It is well handled & they look after large crowds. takes about 45 minutes for the round trip, including 10 minutes at the top.

We met Noel Gardiner who is on the park gate as well as his wife Gladys. When part time & is available if anyone gets into a crevasse or wants climbing information etc. They live in a trailer, a rented winterized one of 2 rooms. propane stove, heater & ice box. It costs them \$80. a month to rent! Seems a lot for a trailer. We saw Gladys later. took some photographs both north & south of the Icefields & sort of scouted out likely places for sketching. It wasn't nearly as lush & green in the meadows as last year. but then we have had good weather this summer.

One thing that amused us was to see the elderly ladies & in high heels walking about 3 miles up on the tongue of the glacier. Hardly any were dressed appropriately. The wind below was very cold off the ice but up on the ice itself it seemed warm as the sun was hot & no wind. It is also surprising how the glacier has receded since we were up in 1941 or 42.

x Saturday Pete made another sketch of the tongue & a little lake at the foot & I wrote you had a bit of a headache & it was awfully
 ✓ glary. It was grossy that morning when we got up. White on the strawberry plants but later in the day we felt much too hot. One picture is about all Pete likes to do if the light is strong, so we decided to go on to Jasper. We are anxious to see it, as we had only been there once before, the day the road opened in 1940.

It was a beautiful day to go & we really enjoyed it. but it got hotter & hotter all the way. We made lunch at the Athabasca Falls camp ground. met an Edmonton man with a new jeep & trailer. He showed us a thing he has on the front wheels - which we have been anxious to see. makes it easier to run on

We are now in Banff for over night fresh supplies etc. hope to get out again. this A.M. as it's such lovely weather. Rusty was good, to take the photos out. Haven't been able to take cold ones yet. Did Rusty enjoy his trip. Loads of love Catherine

the open road. We've been thinking of getting one of the newer Jeeps & would like to have this attachment. The wife came & showed us colored pictures of their hunting on Kodiak Island off Alaska. One goes in boats along the shore & she shot her ^{bear} from the boat, but he had to go ashore to shoot his. Enormous bears by the pictures

We were so hot & decided to get a cabin & wash up when we reached Jasper. Had forgotten it was Saturday night but got one after trying several places, one we could cook in so went shopping for fresh food. Also took a drive to 2 pretty little lakes, very ~~to~~ blue, more like New England ones but a mountain background.

Jasper is so different from Banff, more open and further from the mountains and the peaks don't have as much individual character. That evening we drove up to Maligne canyon and Medicina lake to enquire about going in to Maligne Lake but decided it was too much of a trip just for a short one and would wait for more time another year!

Sunday was clear and hot and we thought we would drive the 58 miles to Mt Robson and back just to see what it was like, the road is just narrow and gravel and much of it goes on an old railway grade. In one place right along beside the track and as I was driving a freight came by with a big diesel engine going the other way. seemed funny and the engineer gave us a special toot and every one waved. Then we crossed the divide and all the vegetation was much more lush and thick like New England or the coast and we even went through a grove of cedars on the way to Hargraves place. One used to reach Mt Robson the highest peak in the Rockies only by train and then it's a 16 mile trip by Horseback in to Berg lake but you can see the mountain from the road, a huge big one but with the sun smack on it we didn't think it too good for sketching, It was awfully glose and muggy so we went down by the river and had our lunch and as the Alpine club people were all coming out from their annual camp we decided to start back before we met someone who wanted a ride for 3 in front isn't too comfortable for long distances.

Back to Jasper and then we headed for the Icefields stopping at Sunwapta falls that night, big clouds had come up and it looked stormy and did rain the next morning. lovely cloud affects, We had a flat tire when we went to start the Jeep so changed that and then to the Icefields to have it fixed. It was terribly cold up there a strong wind. We sketched in the afternoon & then on to Bow Lake.

NUM-TI-JAH

Lodge
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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Friday Aug. 12, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

This going back & forth leaves little time for writing. Did better last summer when it rained so much. In the jeep we have to have a place for everything & as the painting equipment, camera stuff, some food & things we use often have to be most accessible, the "letters to answer" & writing paper get way in back & hardest to reach.

We were in Banff about 24 hours this last time & on the go most of it. Mail to read. Dungarees to wash that first afternoon. Eldon to see. Groceries to buy. Showers to take. Films to develop. The plants to water etc. Luckily no company except Mr Scott with the papers. Jimmy to tell us about Cadet camp and oh yes. Mr Lonsdale to show us his recent sketches. Pete looked at those while I washed 4 flannel shirts by hand. Got them & the dungarees ironed

that night. Then we were up early - about 7 A.M. Wednesday & I washed everything else including socks by hand - rest in machine. repacked the food & clean clothes. looked out sketches to work over extra paint etc. Did errands & mail. Cooked dinner & packed up again & left town soon after 3 o'clock. Susan was down also Sam Ward & Verne who is going to water the lawn for us. It's getting brown! So you see it was rather hectic.

Coming up we found the Morants taking pictures of the new C.P.R. train. Everything all set up. 3 cameras above the road on a bank with a wire release to be shot off by remote control. Nick on the edge of the road & Billi with cameras, a C.P.R. line man with a telephone to other men down below where it was arranged the Canadian would stop. It was late but could spare 5 minutes, no more. It came along, stopped, too far. The man signalled to back up, was just right & a big cloud sailed over hiding the sun. No use to photograph & as the train was late Nick said to go on. didn't think he better wait for sun. though we thought in 2 minutes it would come out, but 2 minutes seems a long time. So away went the train & Nick would have to do it all over again another day. We sure has patience.

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

Had an early supper at the end of the lake, then went to the Game Warden's near Bow Summit with his film. Peter had developed for him. They were having supper so we had a cup of tea. Then the fire warden came down from his look out for mail & we said we would take him back up in the Jeep. ~~So we saw how the gate worked with us to show us where he would hang the key if we wanted to ~~over~~ go through the gate to paint.~~ We took Hans Mosser to the station, a real steep road in one place, he was very pleased having broken his leg last spring. It was beautiful up there & we wished we had planned to stay inside the gate. But came back to an usual spot near Simpsons. Found the herons here, the people we met at Fat McLeod. They were first back from Assinabouine.

To-day we went to the Game Warden's early & Peter Tasker went to the gate with us & showed us where to hang the key & we went up to a lovely little knoll & sketched Peter's Lake with lovely storm effects down the valley. Only trouble was the clouds came nearer until we finally had to stop. The herons were up for a walk

but didn't stop until they returned from the fire wardens & we were eating lunch by then. We were planning to paint again later but a real storm came over. The clouds got low. It snowed & rained & looked as if it had settled in for the night. So we came down. Hadn't been down long when it cleared a bit & we spent most of the afternoon undecided what to do. Lovely effects but they last such a few moments. We did watch 2 bull dozers clearing trees for the new road. It's wonderful to see them work. Had a roast beef dinner at the lodge & now it will soon be time to go to bed.

Haven't decided just where to paint next but thought w'd better take advantage of the weather. Have a few old sketches unfinished we may work on unless it rains to-morrow then we will go back in. Actually a few days rain would give me time to answer letters. Had a nice letter from Gray & they already have over 2000 bales of hay. The belting machine keeps track. The little field near the house they reeled up while we were there to show how the machine worked gave them \$3. looked about the size of the one back of your house.

Lots of love & give our best to Gabe. Have written her but she may not get it before she leaves. Have you her address abroad.

Hope Aunt Julie is really better. Didn't Grandpa & Aunt Mary both have shingles at one time? but not for as long -
 more love
 Catherine

Banff, Alta.
Aug. 15, 1955.
Monday

Dearest Mother,

We are in again and out again, I hardly know what day it is we come and go so much, but as the weather stays nice we want to take advantage of it. This time we may head for a new forestry road north of the main highway to Calgary like the one south that we use going to the Campbells.

Came in on Saturday afternoon after painting in the morning. It clouded up the night before and rained hard in the night, we thought of the road under construction and how muddy it would be so got up early, a little after five and cooked our breakfast in the shelter at the Bow Summit camp ground. A Dutch couple were the only ones there, had slept in their car and the man was up early and had a fire going, just as well for it snowed while we were eating. We then headed for the Simpsons to pick up some money for the bank and the sun came out, a lovely rainbow over the lake and it started clearing, lovely cloud effects so we stayed all morning and painted. Then realized it was the weekend when you get lots of Calgary people and no place one can pull off the road is private so we came in town while the men building the road were eating lunch a good time to come. There are 3 construction outfits and they have 32 bulldozers and altogether 75 pieces of equipment not counting trucks. Doing a good job.

Did errands and what not when we got in, washed up got food etc. No callers. Had an early supper and went to see Pearl and Aunt Julia who leaves for the east soon, haven't seen her at all this year. They were out, saw Dave Prosser about a new Jeep and information he had for us, then back to the Moores, still no one home so as we were dressed up went to the Wards as Sam has been under the weather, found him O.K. and glad to see us.

Sunday was nice and quiet all A.M. we cut canvas and in the afternoon Pete mounted panels to paint on and I wrote a couple of business letters, At supper time Barbara and Harold came over. Harold full of his work on the Trans Canada survey, Then Elsa Wyatt and her daughter aged one, Monica and Veronica the niece called to say goodbye as they fly to Germany this week. The baby just the age and mind into everything so we could hardly talk and then Cyril Paris to tell about some friends who had tried to see us. Then at 8.30 we went to see Aunt Julia, Phil Moore's sister at Pearls. Now this morning have been getting ready to go out. It is after lunch and are off for the mail.

Heaps of love

Catherine
No time to read over

Barb Labe.
Wednesday.
Aug 16, 1955.

Dearest Mother
Pete is helping Peter Tasker the Game Warden develop a film so thought it a good chance to write you a bit. We came out again yesterday. can't remember what I told you last hurried note. We went in for the weekend after painting Saturday morning. It's hard to get off the road enough to avoid the extra people on weekends. There are more Calgary people Sundays & the places we paint are often their picnic spots it seems. Anyway we got in & had a fairly quiet time. Was funny we went out Saturday night & missed two sets of people to see us. Sunday just as we finished supper Barbara & Harold came & the dogs. They have two dachunds & we don't expect them so put up our recent wet sketches against the Welsh dresser to look at & of course had to grab them before the dogs sniffed all the wet paint. Harold was eager to tell us of his survey job on the new Trans Canada west of field. They use boys to help. & Barbara to tell of Davy's head of his music school in Los Angeles had arrived so much talk & confusion. Before they left Elsa Wyatt came & her one year old Monica who was ten times worse than the dogs. Wanted to touch the wet pictures. We spent most of the time taking things away from her. a very determined baby & she grabbed everything within reach. Elsa gave her the sugar spoon to play with & she promptly banged the table. I tried to think of boxes of something expendable but no luck she liked fragile objects.

They flew Tuesday night to Monte of the next night to Frankfurt Germany. Wonder how she'll manage on a plane! Then Cyril Paris came to tell us of friends he had missed seeing & then we went down to ^{see} Aunt Julia (Aunt Moore's sister) & Pearl. Seems they had had Nora Cornwall & her baby. Same trouble as Monica - Aunt Julia told Pete they spent their time chasing after her only to hear another crash of books or kitchen pots & pans! Some children just seem to be into every thing but until they know better shouldn't do too much resetting. Actually it's too distracting to talk very well!

Monday we got ready once more to go out & thought we'd try the new forestry road north. There were the usual things to see so we didn't leave until after lunch. 2:00 clock & drove towards Calgary about 50 miles then north on a regular "local road" rather rough gravel. a nice cosy sort of valley near the ghost river. Several nice ranches & hills & so different from Cowley where one can see for miles. About 12 miles & we entered the Bon Ranch. Don't know the owners names, but Mary Wright of Banff & her husband Berles of Cowley manage it. We drove 7 miles through it & at the other end the loveliest hay fields in the narrow valley the road went through wooded hills on either side & a flat valley with the most wonderful hay. some fields cut and at the gate into the Forestry district

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BOW LAKE, ALBERTA

Via LAKE LOUISE POST OFFICE

they were busy reeling & baling. Mary on one tractor, her husband the other. We only said "hello" as it was 4.30 & we were anxious to get on. They were stopping for tea & wanted us to meet the crows already sitting on a wagon at the further end of the field.

A lovely drive, very twisty road up & down hill & such forests & in the valleys beautiful meadows. In one place we had a wide view of the mountains at the end of Munsiewanka. It was six or later when we reached the Red Deer Valley, a nice campground, a tent & a couple of trailers. We went on a couple of miles only to find the next stretch of road between there & the Clearwater was being gravelled & closed to the public! We could have gone out to the Prairie & back, but it was the forestry road we were interested in seeing so decided we might as well go home, have a good sleep & start up ^{to Bow Lake} ~~the way~~ next day. It was over 200 miles we drove.

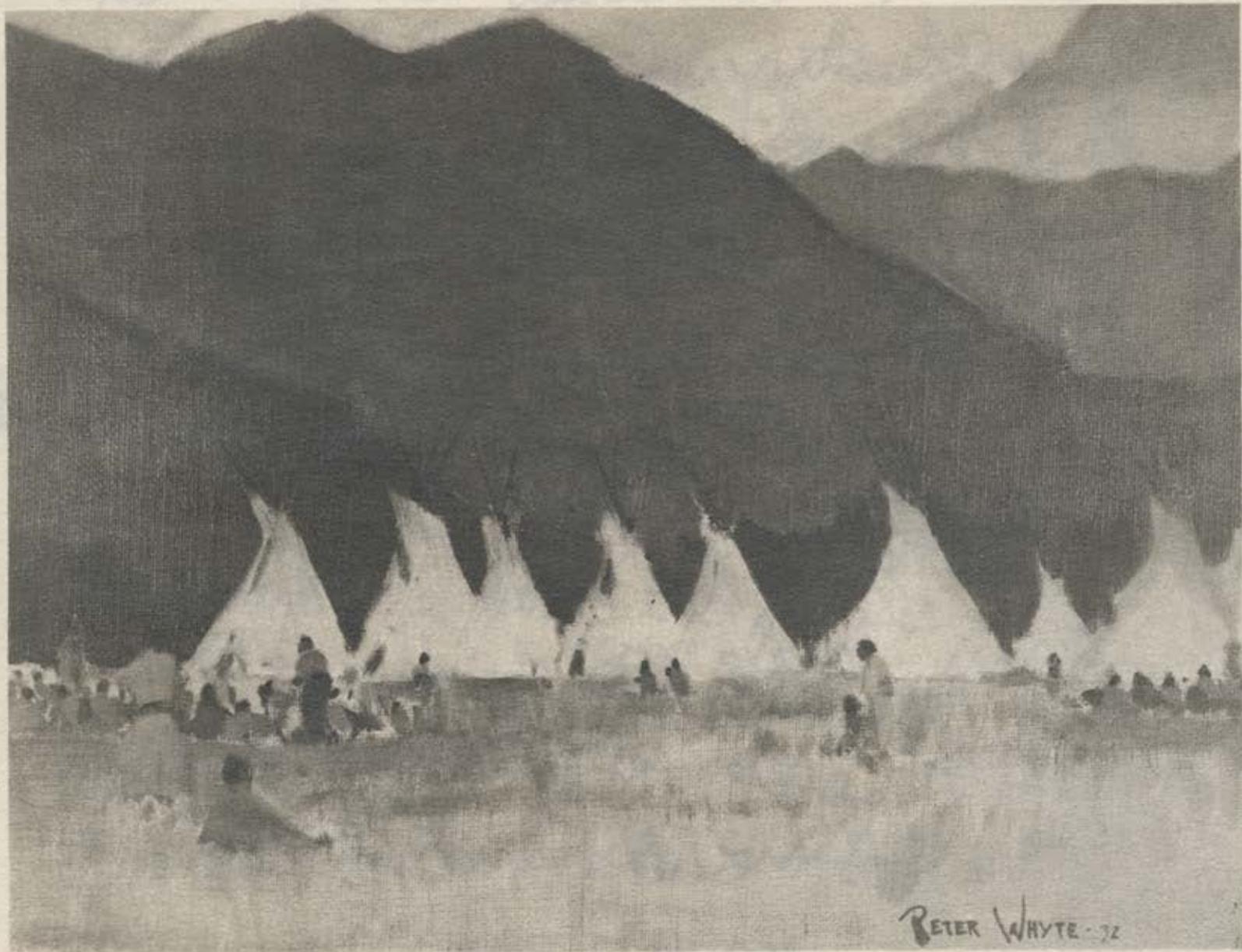
Had a quick supper in the campground & were back home by 10.15 P.M. Actually it was a lovely time of day to drive.

Wednesday Pete got the oil changed in the car after the Broadways made a short call in the morning. He was in the police here a few years ago. I did all sorts of things from watering the flowers to writing & cleaning a bit. Fresh peas have just come in Bang early for them. usually it's Sept 1st. so we had them for lunch & left about 2.30. It was cloudy when we got up to Ban Lake. so we didn't sketch, & chilly so we had supper here & then talked until 10.30 with the Terrans, a nice family from ~~the~~ Willimette Illinois. The ones we met at Fort MeLeod. Their sister is here now & the children.

To-day we drew in a picture on the Summit & Peter Tasker came by & Pete told him he would help develop a roll of film at eleven. A Moose came by as we were talking. couldn't get the camera in time. So we went down to the Warden cabin & in the end stayed to a delicious lunch. & I only got the first paragraph written in this letter. They are a fine couple Pete's partner.

Tonight there is a tour in. a bus load from ^{Eastern} Illinois State College - Practically fills the lodge, a nice lot. all ages & sizes. men & women, but very pleasant. I carried one ladies bag upstairs on my way to the wash room & she offered me a tip. & first now one girl came up & asked if I was one of the Simpson daughters. Set me all up. Bed time soon. so lots of love once more. I like writing you but put off writing others I'm afraid. More love Catherine

1932 - The Mountain - F. Whyte



PETER WHYTE - 32

Bay Alta
Aug 20, 1955.

Dearest Mother.

A new stamp
out today to celebrate the Boy
Scout Jamboree. Only envelopes
I could find were these belonging
to some old Christmas cards.
So just cut off the message.

Had lovely weather the last 3 days. but though we got good colors in our faces the sketches weren't too good. Perhaps the bugs were too many & a bit disturbing. Looked stormy last evening so we came down after supper. lucky we did for it rained hard all night.

We heard on the radio at Bow about the terrific rain you have had. in fact the Canadian news had the man on W B Z tell about it. No trains out of Boston.

X Are trying to make our plans for fall & winter. Pete has so many paintings he's anxious to do, that we will spend the winter here. but want to make you a little visit first. thought of flying but think now we will take the train. pick up a new jeep (Ernie Strom wants our present one) & drive to Concord. haven't

made definite plans but would
some time the first part of October
be good for you? We would want
to be back by November to miss
any early winter storms.

Depends a little on when we
can get the new car & also on
what kind of fall we have. The
color is usually so nice in Sept.
Will be writing soon.

Loads of love
Pete & Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. August 21, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Will just start a letter in answer to some of yours, it is 8.30 P.M. so may get too sleepy. We just had Donny Whyte down with his wife Sheila and baby Linda, the older girl Karen having been put to bed. He is Cliff's & Pete's older brother) second son and lived in Prince Rupert B.C. ~~where~~ where his father still is, but came down this summer to work in the Shell station with Young Cliff. Now he is to take over the new Shell Oil station in Calgary soon and they will go there to live, at present are living with Cliff and Bev up in the old house. We hadn't seen Donny for 7 years, he has grown into a fine lad, is 24 or 25 now. Has a good sense of humor. This is the first chance to have them down. Cliff and Bev his wife have done well with their gas station, sell gas and do repairs and also sell ice to the tourists. and have a staff of 12 this summer, busy most of the time.

This morning on the Calgary radio news it seemed funny to have them tell about the old north bridge in Concord having to be sandbagged to save it from the rising river, must be awfully high. They told how Emerson made it famous with his words and that it wasn't the original bridge but a replica, quite a news item, none of the other newscasts mentioned it. Shall be anxious to hear about the storm, Wonder had Gale already sailed?

We enjoy the letters you enclose, the ones of Cousin Jane and Mildred and Louisa's too. Keeps us posted on them all. I remember Annette Morse when she was here saying that she and Julia took turns going up to see how the Aunt was, not that they could do anything for her but felt they should go once a year. Now I guess she is the one who just died. I wonder did Cousin Robert leave anything to Cousin Jane and Emma, I do hope so for am sure it would be a great help.

Don't wonder you thought from my writing that it was an Art Show not an Air Show we went to in Lethbridge. I hadn't been to one since we went in England at Hendon, remember how everyone had baskets with tea and sat to watch on top of the cars. The planes go so fast now-a-days it is hard to take ~~them~~ them in.

The largest painting of Peter's is the one of the circle of teepees, the grass is a lovely soft green and the teepees are sort of smoky and some with color and designs.

Maybe I confused you too about the Cambells ranch. They had 1600 acres originally and then a chance to buy another lot which gave them land to farm and grow oats and wheat and also summer pasture for their cattle, they had plenty of winter pasture. Have forgotten how much pasture it takes to feed one head of cattle for a winter, as they stay outside all the year round, except for the milk cows. When the snow is too deep for them to ~~get to the~~

dig through to the grass

grass they have to feed them, and go out with sleighs and dump off the hay, and once they start feeding them then the cattle aren't very keen on rustling for themselves. The boys go to a little one room school now but later would go into the high school in Cowley or Pincher, maybe come home weekends. Dane wrote Pete that he has done nearly all the mowing for his father,

Amglad that Munt Julie was well enough to go to Bradford for that is real home to her. I

I notice on August 3rd you wrote that the farms were all drying up and the ground so hard and dry the water ran off, perhaps that is why the hurricane rains flooded things so, The rain never soaked in. In the tropics and at the coast it is like a sponge and soaks up inches of water easily, but 14 inches in 36 hours must have been terrific. *Pete wondered too if all the pavement in towns means the water runs off making more.*

Thursday, never did get this finished. No company. Came out Tuesday afternoon to Lake Louise. Sketched it yesterday morning. Then showers became a steady rain so went back to Banff in time to get your letter. It's like a continued story for we know you have had floods & yet your latest letter was just a heavy rain. So we must wait longer & probably the mails were much delayed. Hope not too much damage was done.

We are back up at Lake Louise, a better morning but it's a hard subject. Have met Denise Major who came to see us last fall with her mother & father who wrote those letters Pete sent you to read! She is working as an elevator girl this summer. Had the morning of yesterday & stayed & watched us now we are waiting for her to come at noon & maybe go to Moraine with us this afternoon she has off.

Will leave this to be mailed. We may camp out again tonight.

Loads of love

Catherine

P.S. Are Russ & Kitty seriously thinking of going to Europe this fall? We were thinking the first part of October would be a good time for us to be in Canada.

I wouldn't want to miss them.

We had a nice evening and he left about 9.30. but it was a steady line of people it seemed *all afternoon* -

Tuesday morning we got up real early, about 6.30 and first thing did some prints that Pete had promised Pete Tasker, I also had the ironing I hadn't gotten a chance at the day before. then to the bank soon after ten and Sid Woots was out so had to go back later. Did see Larrie Simpson and she said she would drop around and take the pictures we did up to Pete Tasker which saved us going up there/ this week. Then I asked around about Mrs Knantz for we were anxious to know if she were really coming back that day, left a note at the Mt. Royal but she had no reservation this time and none of her friends knew until I found Ethel Knight who had a wire from her that she wouldn't be back from Jasper until later in the week, so we decided not to wait in any longer and got things to-gether real quick and left town at 4 P.M. for Lake Louise (seems she only meant she wouldn't be able to play golf with Ethel but did come back about 5 o'clock however it is so hard to know when people change their plans often)

We got up to Lake Louise soon after five and went to the boat house, It was the first time we had been up this year and we spoke to Walter Feuz the Swiss guide who now looks after renting the boats and canoes, it was lovely though dull and we had a nice visit, also found a secluded spot to the side of the boat house where we could sketch without being seen by more people and decided to come back next day, Walter also told us he would try and find Denise Major for us. the young French Canadian Girl who came out last fall with her father and mother, she has been working on the elevators this summer. Then we went to Moraine Lake and had a picnic supper but decided to camp in the campground at Lake Louise which seemed less crowded, which we did.

It rained in the night but was quite nice Wednesday morning so we were up early, made breakfast in the shelter with several other families as it looked like a shower any moment and then up to the boat house by nine and Denise was there to see us. Had the morning off so asked if she could watch us paint, she is studying at L'ecole des Beaux Arts in Montreal which her uncle runs, and she is such a nice quiet person we said we didn't mind. It felt like being in Art school again the three of us talking away, I just drew mine in but Pete sketched in oil. Then it got darker and finally a storm came up so we ate our lunch in the parking space where we could watch the cloud effects on Mt. Victoria and the tourists which if anything were even more interesting ! The clouds were down on some of the mountains so we went down to the valley floor over where the gate on the road to Mt Temple is at the foot of the hill. Found that the slashing between there and the road to Banff has been done for the new Trans Canada highway so drove along that for a bit to see where it went. It was awfully rough, just a tractor road really and we only went a mile and a half in all, the last so rough we turned around before getting to the main road to Banff. The other part going towards the Pipestone river hasn't been cleared yet. but it does seem funny that the TransCanada highway is to cross the river where we used to ski across only in winter and used to go with the tractor the first year it was used. Now means that Temple is about 4 miles from the main highway.

The storms were coming over the Great divide so fast the effects didn't last long enough to paint and soon it was pouring where we were too. We sat a while in the car and thought it sort of silly to camp out when we could be home in an hour, so started for Banff.

Were home by four o'clock, it hadn't rained in Banff but poured until 9 P.M. at Lake Louise we heard next day. We had time to get mail and a good supper and then I made some canvas bags for the tent poles and watered the graden plots which don't get rain under the eaves. and we went to bed early

Thursday we were up early again and left for Lake Louise by 8 A.M. and were at the boat house ready to paint about the same time we had arrived the morning before. Only difference was the 40 mile drive but not much use camping out so near home when the evenings are so short now. Pete did another one of the lake and I worked on the one laid in the day before. then we sat and watched Ernest Neuz and a party of three reach the top of Mt Victoria. Walter knew they were to climb from the O'Hara side and kept looking every little while when he expected them, then took a big chunk of mirror a foot square and there was just enough sun by then to flash a signal that he had seen them on top. At noon Denise came with her sketching things and we went over to Moraine Lake, had a good meal in the lodge where Mrs Shaw seemed so glad to see us. and then all three sketched on the rock piãã as we call it at the end of the lake. Didn't have too many people watch us, guess it is good for us to get used to onlookers but some are disturbing. One man in the morning watched a long time, didn't say anything but hummed a lot. one had a cigarette and I didn't care for the smoke but he only watched a short time. a honey moon couple came back later to see how it was going, the man said he had never seen painting done before and the girl told me her aunt couldn't go out at all and spent a lot of time copying pictures inthe Star Weekly and made some really beautiul ones that way. Finally we had to quit as it rained again. Funny weather, so clear first thing in the morning and then big showers that shut right in and rain most of the afternoons. However it was getting so dry we don't really mind.

(He's the Supv.intendent of Yoho Park)

Took Denise back to the Chateau in time for her to go back to work and met Ronny Steeves who talked quite a while to us inthe parking space so it was six when we got home last night and we luckily didn't have anyone come in so went to bed by 9.30 It is quite a long day when you drive up and down, if the road were better it would seemeasier I guess, we take turns driving which makes it nicer. They are to build a new road 3 lanes wide from Banff to Lake Louise mostly on the other side of the valley -

To-day Firday we started out again, a little later, about 8.30 but there were heavy clouds coming over and as we got around the corner in the valley about 12 miles up we could see it was heavy with clouds in the Lake Louise district. so came home a m this afterp noon Pete has made up more panels to work on, this morning we did a number of things and saw Syd Vallance and had quite a talk with him and then Lynnne and Christine Smith came this afternoon, Christine has been with her grandparents in Winnipeg all summer so we had to hear all about that. They helped me wash windows and water the plants which was about all I could think of to do and were very anxioa to wash the car but Pete was busy and afraid they would get water inside I guess. One reason I wrote you was because I could do it while Pete talked to them and we have expected Bill Jamieson to come sometime. Otherwise I should have written other more difficult ones. It has rained off and on all day. don't know whether we will go out to-morrow or not.

Saturday. It is raining to-day so we haven't gone out and Pete is working on a sketch upstairs. Jon has just come over probably having nothing else much to do so don't know if my letter writing will be much better to-day, will finish this and then see!

Yest Last night after supper we went over to see about a camera Pete wanted help with focusing and heard that Mrs Moffat had just died. She was a wonderful old lady and we used to enjoy going to see her on Christmas and Armistice day as one of her sons was killed in the war. She always framed Pete's Christmas cards and she was always cheerful and interested in what one was doing and so pleased to see one. We went down to see her daughter for just a minute as she had a whole houseful of old friends calling. then took a drive around Tunnel Mt. and to bed before anyone came in. Not that we mind people coming but it sometimes makes such a late night.

This morning it was pretty cloudy and is raining hard now. Did the usual cleaning and errands and also helped Pete focus the camera, he thought it was a bit out and I think it was, We also saw Willie Morant for a few minutes as Nick is away and we wondered how she was getting on.

Had better get started on those letters ! Cousin Bert wrote Pete such a wonderful letter about the Indian Pictures, Pete was awfully pleased.

Loads of love

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Aug. 31, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We have had rather a busy week as the weather has stayed very good and awfully hot for this time of year seems to me, must have been 80 in Banff to-day. We went out Sunday as I think I wrote you and sketched at Moraine Lake up on the big pile of rocks that people think is the Moraine but is really a lot of rock that fell out of the side of one of the mountains, One can get all sorts of interesting compositions. and the rocks are very good to paint, make nice strong foregrounds. We worked way over on the further side Sunday thinking there would be lots of people but no one came where we were, then after lunch we went to Lake Louise for the fun, and there were plenty of people there.

Monday was a lovely day but we didn't go out as Mrs Moffatt's funeral was in the afternoon and she was such an old friend of ours. Pete taught her to drive a car when he was 16 and she was 81 when she died. Did all sorts of things in the morning like washing the shirts etc. and seeing various people, the funeral was at 2 o'clock and when we came back Pete had a couple of films to develop so I started the ironing and Mr Pogue, Bev's father came with some Ice cream and strawberries for us to try, they run a ice cream bar in the summer and we lent them a cabin to store things in. I kept on ironing and we chatted a bit and then Tully Montgomery the Anglican retired minister came to call, I knew he liked tea so put the kettle on. Mr Pogue left and Tully said he came because he felt we were sincere friends of his and he needed cheering up ! Seemed funny for a minister to come to us for that, but he had just had a great disappointment as his sister had decided to live in the little Banff house his mother had and which he had always planned to live in when he retired. I couldn't think just what to say but told him perhaps it was better for some reason that he didn't live there after all and that often things worked out for the best, and he seemed to feel better. Actually it is better for the new minister not to have him there for it is right next the church and the rectory. Anyway he stayed quite a while and told stories and Pete came in soon and I got the ironing done too. Then we told Tully we had to go over town and gave him a lift over. saw Sid and Evelyn Worts (he is the bank manager) and they had been at the Art Gallery the Rotary Club ran this summer in the store on the corner. George Noble fixed it over and moves in this fall and let the Rotary Club have it this summer. They had an exhibition of local artists pictures and charged 25¢ admission and later a silver collection to raise funds for a library building. Have taken in quite a bit. Right now they have pictures on loan of Belmore Brownes and Carl Rungius and George Brownes. We went in and talked quite a while before coming home for supper.

Tuesday we drove up to Moraine and sketched again tho the light wasn't quite as good a sort of milky, Have a picnic lunch in the campground and then we drove over to the Great Divide to see if there were any signs of the new road, but all we got was a lot of dust.

It was hot when we got home and I was glad to get into cooler clothes, we did errands and Bill Jamieson came over with the pictures we had lent for the summer exhibition.

To-day we got an earlier start getting up at 6.30 and by the time we got to Moraine Lake the campers were just having breakfast. and the sun was behind one peak so it felt quite cold. We each made a sketch but with the very strong light Pete finds one enough for a day. It is only 50 miles from Banff, maybe not that much and seems silly to camp when in a little over an hour we can be home, so back we came but to rather a busy afternoon.

We were talking about all sorts of things, wondering whether to go to Cowley over this coming weekend leaving Friday and if we would go and see the Bird's bird pictures as we had promised for 2 years up at the Banff Springs to-morrow night, and then as we came by ~~wax~~ our house to go for the mail first we wondered if Sam's car was at his workshop out at the back, as we haven't seen him lately, and ~~we~~ we also ~~wondered~~ wondered if there was time for you to write about our trip east.

First of all your letter was in the mail in answer to ours about the visit, also one from the Cordiners from Africa who we met at Moraine just after the war. We hadn't been home long enough for me to change when Sam appeared, just saw the Jeep when he came to the shop for something. We were having some gingeale and fruit juice and a bit of talk when Jean Park the hostess at the Banff Springs came to ask us to dinner to-morrow night so we could see the Bird pictures afterwards, and then Peggy Prosser came to borrow our Air Mattresses as Dave got his holidays ahead of time and they are going to Cowley and the Campbells for the weekend! So all our questions were more or less decided for us. Did seem funny when we were just talking about the things. and then Mr Lonsdale came with a sketch he had just finished when we were eating supper.

We said we would go to the hotel to-morrow and if it is nice may go back to Moraine to sketch. in the morning. But we will wait for another week to go to Cowley as it would make too many if we went over labor day and can paint around here.

We had thought of flying east and then we had a good chance to sell our present jeep and get one of the new models which has a more powerful engine. Next spring we hear the Jeep is to be streamlined and the body changed and then it won't work as well for camping and the boxes we have won't fit. If we get a new car here someone else drives it from the east and most new cars are driven across and one never quite knows who brings it or how careful they are, so that is one reason we thought we would go to Toronto to pick up a new one. It won't take much longer as we will go direct from there to Concord. Also it is nice to have a car we are used to while there. The reason for the trip is really to see you. The train trip is shorter than it used to be and only 2 night, and 2 days from Banff to Toronto and we can check our baggage that way, on a plane one can take so little. We will be busy the next 3 weeks sketching when the weather is good and getting things organized. It won't be as much to think of as when we got for several months but there is always lots to do.

Bedtime now. Loads of love

Catherine
Am glad the Edith Haysman went out to see. What a time you have had. river must have been higher than ever before.

Moraine Lake
Sun. Sept. 4, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

If I don't get too lazy & sleepy will start a letter (out of ink already) - Now perhaps I'll do better - We don't usually come out on the Labor Day weekend but the weather is so warm & lovely it seemed too bad to stay in. We really have been lucky - were planning to go to Cowley for the visit we didn't make in July - wanted to try a few sketches of that kind of country but when we heard the Prossers were going with their 2 kids decided to wait another week. & had we gone & the weather like this we would have found it too gray, as there hasn't been a cloud. No effects really.

Did I write we were coming out each day & going home at the night from Moraine Lake? have been painting rocks, bits of the lake & mountains as one doesn't see enough sky here to matter much if there are clouds or not. & it's hard enough to paint without cloud shadows & changing light. We drove up last Sunday & found we got away from people quite easily. Then stayed in ~~Thursday~~ for Mrs. McFalls funeral & did other things. came up Tuesday, Wednesday & Thurs. all lovely days.

Thursday night we had promised to go to the Bauff Springs for dining with Jean Park. going to her room first where we met Roberta Clark, one of the dead A.A.A. people in Honolulu. a going concern, quite a person & knew the Larnises well & other friends of ours. Also another couple from San Antonio, Texas. Jean is Hotel hostess. originally from Glasgow but really a lovely person. & she has to entertain people.

Just the 3 of us had dinner together - very nice though a bit hurried in the end to get to the Bird pictures at 9. We know them well & have never gotten up to see their movie. This is their 2nd year & they show it every Thursday night at the Bauff Springs. Bed at Lake Louise.

The pictures were very interesting. Dick Bird takes lots of animal ones for Walt Disney. Had amusing shots of a family of goats chewing their cud, & of a little Pika or Coney. Like a tiny rabbit, lives in the rocks, there are lots of them here, stores grass & leaves for winter & makes great piles of hay. They are cute little things, no tails & no expression except to twitch their nose. One shot showed one eating a tiny globe flower. They don't use their paws, just chew rapidly & gradually the flower disappears. Stem leaves & finally the flower itself. Have many nesting birds, hatching eggs & feeding little ones. The Pelecan is the funniest as the young one reaches way down the gullet of the mother for its food. We were glad to have seen the pictures, but it was a late evening.

Friday we had the Jeep engine tuned up in the morning & discovered another old timer had died. Mr Alexander, his son had been so helpful when Mom died & conducted the Eastern Star part of the Service so we felt we should be there. It was awfully hot to that day & so we decided to stay in & come out if the weather held on Saturday A.M. Patry Mackenzie came in with her photographs & Harry Gow from Underwood & the afternoon was soon gone. Saw Henry Ripman again over town. Got cleaned up & went to see Pearl in the evening but several cars at her house looked like a party so we came back home.

Yesterday, Saturday, was lovely so we decided to try up here over the weekend - were later than usual

but here about 10.30. Each made a sketch. Had a late lunch about 2 o'clock & then after 3 decided to walk to the end of the lake (It was awfully windy, ^{not day} but that blew off twice while I was trying to sketch & finally I had to ~~take~~ - it on.) We got to the end of the lake & walked up the valley. Then we thought we'd go far enough to join the trail coming back along the ridge below Larch Valley - but our memory of it 20 years ago was when we were a bit younger & faster for it proved further than we thought. Also Pete has to walk slowly as he can't judge distance for placing his feet as well, & it is almost harder going down hill than up. We figured we went about 6 miles in all. The light was lovely. The woods very pretty too. & we enjoyed it. but it was 7 o'clock when we got back & we had to hurry a bit to get supper & wash up & ready for the night (our brushes too!) by dark at 8.30. Went to bed about then too. Quite a few others in the camp ground.

Tuesday, came home yesterday. Labor Day after sketching in the AM. had lots of company so will write in another day or two.

2 nice letters from you. Perhaps you were no more successful getting news of Bob Lake & us out of Rusty than we were news of Con and you! Though Rusty did urge us to go east & certain subjects he was quite talkative about maybe it's just the age he is.

Loads of love & more later on
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. Sept. 9, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Such a mixed up week somehow and now we are having a bit of weather from the north with rain so think we will give up our trip to Cowley. Had thought of going down for 3 or 4 days and trying a few sketches of that kind of country but then didn't go over Labor Day as the Prossers were going and we knew it would be too confusing and also it was lucky for there wasn't a cloud in the sky during that time and would have been too hot and glaring a light, looks it's best with clouds. Then we thought this weekend would be good, but as the Prossers weren't back we tried to telephone to see if the Campbells might go off for a day or two with them if their work was caught up, but no one answered and last night we were too late to phone.

Had promised Erling to take him out to his ten mile shack on the little road and let him drive the Jeep to see how it ran, Siri his daughter went along too. They came about 4.30 and we got out there after picking up stuff at the store, at six, it was 7.30 or later when we got back and we made soup and sandwiches for them here, so it was after nine when they went home. This morning is rainy and we have decided there is really too much to do here anyway. as we only have a couple of weeks before we head east.

Such a funny time as we had Monday, the day we came back from Moraine, sketched in the morning real early and my but it felt cold in the shade until the sun finally hit us and then it got very hot. We were sketching on the rock pile, not very far apart, about 150 feet and suddenly heard a great commotion in a tree off to our right and a dog in the campground barking and kids shouting. Then we saw a little black bear up in the branches and it started calling, sounded just like "Mama, mama" almost human, soon a big brown bear appeared looking very cross, gave us a dirty look too. Pete had quickly dismantled his tripod he uses for the Sketch box and strapped the legs together in case the mother came towards us, he figured a good rap on the nose might help, and I had gone to Pete so we would be two instead of off in separate directions. The lake was behind us so luckily the mother took the cub over the rocks and towards some trees, just where I had sketched the day before and near where I had been ~~just before~~. Later we watched her take the cub way up a long scree slope and they ate berries off the raspberry bushes on the way. went way up and then we lost track of them. < Seems a setter in the campground had bothered the bear who in turn went after the dog, someone told us it was really funny to see. The dog had sat by us while we were eating breakfast, very well behaved and didn't beg, rather a young one, and then walked with us to where we sketched, lucky he didn't stay with us. He was with 3 girls in a station wagon and slept in the front seat, they seemed to be in the back/

Met a German photographer and his wife, very nice sort and they are going to open a store in Red Deer, talked with them quite a bit, they love the mountains and don't want to be too far away but must get established first, He has been here 3 years and she just over a year. The Day before we met a man from Innsbruck, Austria married to a girl from Edmonton, a very nice couple too. Lots of Germans and Austrians over the weekend, some boys climbed way up one slope Sunday, then started yodeling to other friends across the valley, sounded very nice. came down and went for a swim in Moraine Lake not far from us, must have been awfully cold, they had leather shorts such as are worn in Austria and Bavaria, took off most their clothes except for a bit of underwear, then after the swim took that off too and wrung it out, put it back on and sat in the sun until all was dry. They certainly were enjoying themselves.

There are lots of D.P.s or New Canadians as we call them -

Well we came home after an early lunch Monday and while Pete took the Jeep round to have the oil changed I thought I would wash out the Blue Jeans in the Bendix and the woolen shirts and have them all ready (it was so warm for drying) next day. Was in the midst of it when Alden McGrew, Rue French his wife and their daughter Anne arrived. He used to go out with Jim Simpson and I knew his sister Jane very well in Boston, also had met Rue. It was 15 or 20 years since he had been here and is now head of the Art Dep't. at the Univ. of Colorado I think it is, in Boulder Colo. They had so much to talk about I was kept busy answering questions and trying to make tea when they would come out and talk some more, Luckily Pete came back in time to answer one of them at least. Alden knows Cousin Bergeant Newbury well because of the Art part and said he remembered Sam (as he called him) telling him of a nephew coming up here of going to Annisquam in the summer or something *but didn't know who.*

9 finished doing the sheets etc.
They left about five and we rushed over to shop as the stores were open until 5.30, were in the midst of cooking our first big meal, steak etc. when Verne dropped in to check up on watering the lawn for us and stayed to have some ice cream, told us more about his days on sailing ships, we were just finished the dishes and Pete had gone up to the Scotts for the newspapers he picks up for us when we are away and the Morants came in. They hadn't had supper and we had some steak left so I made them consomme first, then talked them into having steak and left over vegetables and desert. They were just at the desert stage when Ken Ford and Evelyn came in to say good-bye as they are moving to Edmonton, so they had tea with the Morants. We all talked a lot until the Fords left and the Morants stayed to help wash their dishes, So it was quite an evening for we had gotten up at 6.30 and had a long day.

Tuesday I was sort of sick, expect it was just being too tired and had a headache and was even sick to my stomach, perhaps something I ate or the water or a bug. I started breakfast but that was all, lay down a while and dozed and was just downstairs again feeling a bit better when Dr Riley came to see us. more talk and quite a visit and when he was going we suddenly realized after all he is a doctor so Pete asked him what would be good for me. He went over town and came back with a bit of something so I took that and some consomme and felt better. Then we had Lynn and Christine in the afternoon and seems Lynn had felt the same way that very morning, I began getting a bit of a headache back so went upstairs and slept a bit and they thought maybe they better go so I could rest, were awfully thoughtful about it *for kids 11 years old.*

When I got up next time and had a cup of tea I felt better and the Aileys came back on their way to Calgary to see how I was. didn't get out of the car though. About 4.30 or 5 we went out for mail and a few errands and then had something that wasn't just tuned right fixed on the car so it was after six when we got home and we made it a short evening and went to bed before nine in case more callers came. Oh. yes Harold was over too but Pete talked to him outside and Sam and Verne too in the morning but I was upstairs.

Wednesday was the Jubille day in Banff, the 50th anniversary of the forming of the province, the year before I was born. I was feeling myself again so did the wash and cleaned up the house and even got the dusting done. Then we went over town, had an early lunch and were on hand to take pictures of the parade. It wasn't much of a parade but a lovely day, everyone has been too busy this summer and the season was just over labor day so no time to plan floats etc. However it was amusing what there was, a few old model fords, the ~~bugs~~ ^{Cubs} and I.O.D.E. and army cadets and local band etc.

Then we all went down to the Indian Grounds for Jalopy races and children's pony races etc. and most important of all the scrolls that were given out to all "senior citizens." Those who were living in Alberta the year it was made a province. There were about 75 and Pete and Cyril Paris just made it having been born that year. Some were very proud of their scrolls for they had come from other countries and were a step ahead of other Banff people also considered old timers, but who had come several years later. Each person was called up and told the year they came to Alberta, Mrs Luxton was the first white child born in 1873 in Southern Alberta, her father a missionary in Morley. She was there but too shy to go and receive her scroll, several of the older ones weren't there but it was a very nice day for so many local people were out, too bad a strong east wind came up and it got awfully cold and started to rain. So most of us came home. That evening Mr Ed Beltz of Calgary came to see us and we had a most interesting evening, he looked at the sketches and told us about a book on "perceiving" by Adolph (no that's not right) Huxley and also his 12 years in the Dutch East Indies, he is an Oil Geologist with Eric Harvey's Western Leaseholds I think. It was 11 when we went.

Next day we were going to get ready to go to Cowley, found Erling who came with Siri to see about the Jeep and arrange to go out that day, and did all sorts of things as well. We tried to telephone Cowley and wondered what to do, also did numerous things over town and Sam and Verne came to put a new gutter on the front of the house just in time for it rained later on, mostly showers until last night and this morning it has even tried to snow, is 36 out now and I hear snowing in Calgary.

I must go and see if I can find some things over town for the trip. No one sells hats in Banff so we may have to go to Calgary yet. haven't shopped there for over a year! May get down next week we have given up the idea of Cowley as there really isn't time and we want to go to Bow Lake once more this fall and have another sketch of Lake Louise to do too.

Haven't answered your letters at all, I am poor at it. Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alta.
Mon. Sept. 13, 1955

Dearest Mother,

We went to Cowley after all and didn't get back until yesterday after six. However we have saved one day and won't bother to go up to Bow Lake again as we saw young Jimmy to-day and he said the road was so dusty it wasn't worth it and they closed yesterday. so dusty from the construction, hope they make a really good road.

Two nice long letters from you when we got back, I don't wonder you thought we didn't get your letters about the flood for I haven't commented on it at all. It wasn't for a few days that you wrote much ~~and~~ about it and now each letter has a new story in it. I never realized that the river had ever gotten that high or almost that high, though I guess they did have a few hurricanes in the old days too, for Mr Castle told us about cousins of his who had a mill in Massachusetts or New Hampshire, one of those little mills way in the country and in the first hurricane it was completely ~~di~~ destroyed, the one ~~about~~ ten years or more ago that did so much damage to the trees. It was a total loss but they looked at the insurance they had been carrying for fifty years or so and found that they had coverage for damage by Hurricane, so they were able to collect enough to rebuild. Evidently their forefathers had carried it, so it shows there must have been hurricanes many years before in New England. *Most insurance policies don't mention cover "damage by hurricanes unless it's specified"*

The clipping from the Concord Journal was most interesting and all the stories you wrote about. Does seem awful a person losing everything, but doesn't the National Flood Relief fund help in a case like that. It does in Canada, in those awful floods in Manitoba and in Toronto last year they paid people a ~~certaan~~ amount so they could rebuild I believe.

Was interested in Mrs Warner moving back to Concord. Remember her daughters went to Wheelers, Peggy was older than I and Frederika younger, and I used to go out with Henry quite a bit and even visited them at the Cape. Their house in Lincoln was lovely too. Would like to see her this time, it's been years since I have.

Nice too to have news of Eileen, she wrote this summer and told me she had studied shorthand and typing and am so glad for she will be able to get along much better that way, Not easy to learn when one is a little older. Nice for you to see Tina and Jackie maybe we can see them too this trip. Always so much one wants to do. and Mrs French and Eileen Borland. We hear from Eileen at Christmas as a rule.

And wasn't that funny about Margie, I don't wonder you were surprised, Always thought she was such an attractive girl and reminded me of Bo. Haven't seen her for ages either. Your last letter was full of news. Glad Bo is getting on alright but must be an awful nuisance having things chopped ~~fine~~ *crushed*. Do you suppose she used Baby food. Would be handy at times !

You didn't mention ^{before} that Mary, your cook was flying to California, what a wonderful trip that will be. Hope we aren't going to arrive while she is away and make it more awkward for you. We should know to-morrow when we will reach Concord. Are sort of planning to be there by the weekend of Oct. 1st. Haven't heard for sure when the Jeep can be picked up but will let you know as soon as we hear.

You spoke in one letter about an electric steam iron, we have one, have had it a couple of years and perhaps I never mentioned it. Makes it so easy to iron for I bring the things in off the line, especially in winter and they are just right with the steam from the iron to press. you can do some things when real dry, very handy when using the sewing machine for you just press seams to be stitched instead of turning them the way Aunt Frankie used to when she was heming the linen napkins, I can still see her at Seal Harbor turning the tiny seams! I also have an electric beater, very quick for all sorts of things, smoothing soups etc. as well as cake mixes. Housekeeping is very easy these days.

Think I wrote you we had given up the idea of going to Cowley when the weather was poor on Friday, tried to get Steam Watt to come and fix the bleeder on the water system but he was busy fixing drains at the store and as it still looked stormy told him to come Saturday morning which he did. The clouds were still low and I went up to the hotel to Wilsons to see if they had any coats, they didn't but as I went out the weather cleared, it was just lovely, so when I got home with the groceries asked Pete what he thought we better do. Steam had started work but gone back to the shop for something as plumbers are want to do and we had no idea whether he would work in the afternoon or not. Pete thought we could leave after lunch and still go to Cowley or part way and stay over Sunday. We began putting the food and paints and clothes etc. back into the Jeep. It was after 11 then and Steam returned at ten to noon and was finished by quarter past. So we decided to go, had lunch, did some shopping for a leg of lamb, a basket of tomatoes, plums and peaches which we knew they couldn't raise, got changed and were away at 2.30. the Jeep checked too.

It turned out to be the most beautiful day and I never saw such light on the mountains, the sun is low in the sky and the deep blue shadows were so intense, some were so dark they looked velvety and the whole side of a valley would be in shadow, the ^{grey} white of the dead burnt out trees looked white against the dark slopes. We kept going for we wanted to make the gap before it was too dark to drive through the narrow canyon road, and as I keep track of how long it takes to drive we knew approximately when we would get there. It is just 5 hours from here as a rule and funny part was we made exactly the same time as in the summer when we left Banff at 6.30 A.M. and got there at 11.30. We did save 5 minutes in the last part. The sun had set long before but there was just enough light for us to get through and along the 9 miles of narrow road. We thought of trying to cut across country but as well we didn't it all looks so different at night. Little roads appear quite important in the headlights and you have no real idea of direction though all the stars were out. We went to Lunbreck on the main paved road from the Crows Nest Pass. Had some soup and milk in a filling station it looked so nice and clean and then headed for the ranch. It was after ten when we drove up their road. We knew we would sleep out in any case so decided not to wake them up or delay

to the Ranch

their going to bed. We thought the Prossers might still be there and knew they couldn't all leave in the morning without our seeing them for there is just the one road out. So we had a nice sleep and breakfast as the sun rose over the hills at 6.30 and by 7.15 went slowly up the road and round the corner where we could first see the ranch and there was Gray on horseback, Timmy and El. Seems some cattle had gotten over the hill towards the wheat so Gray was going to scare them back. They were really surprised, the others were still asleep. So Timmy got on the horse ^{back} to chase the cattle and we ^{drove} into their Jeep and went over the hill to check on the rest of the herd and leave some salt. It was a really beautiful morning.

The Prossers started back to Banff after breakfast, which they had cooked on our tailgate, and then we had a quiet day as everyone was tired and it seemed pretty hot too. We got enough stuff out of our supplies to make lunch and supper easy, also Ethel Pilling brought us a perfect loaf of fresh white bread for supper, still warm, and El had half a saskatoon berry pie with whipped cream as well as a few left overs. They had company in the afternoon, a most amusing neighbor, too long a story here. and we saw the pigs, new ones born the day before. Pigs look just the same, only the size differs. Pete showed Dane how to develop two rolls of film from his new camera and we really had a pleasant day. Next morning I tried a roll of film of the kids going to school, just hope it turns out. Have sent it in to be developed and it will go to Pete care of you in Concord so you will know it is for us when you see the little square yellow box in the mail. *It's a 50 foot movie. Haven't taken enough to know how.*

Gray left on Monday with Ralph for Methbridge about pigs and we headed for Calgary, ran into quite a thunder storm, lots of rain but had a good talk with Mt Turner at the Art Galleries, and went to the Old Timers but about fire screens and andirons we are giving them in memory of Pete's mother. She was so interested in the old timers. Then saw Donny Whyte's new Shell Oil Station that opens this week, a very large one and so modern, four of the boys from here have gone down to work there with him. the ones who worked for Cliff. and we were back home by 6 P.M.

Yesterday we went to Lake Louise as the weather was still nice and Pete got a sketch of the reflection, he has a picture to do and wants enough material to work on when we return, he is laying in a composition now.

Better not write more, my letters are too long winded as is,

Heaps of love and will be seeing you soon.
Too bad we will miss Kitty this visit but it is nice she can go to be with Gale, I should think a nice time of year in Europe and not as many tourists.

More love

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday Sept. 18, 1955

Dearest Mother,

I should have gotten a new ribbon for this, sorry it is so light in writing.

Have been rather busy since writing last. Went to Calgary Thursday and it seemed to be rather a lucky day, either you find what you want in most cases or nothing is right. Went on the early bus at quarter to eight and found it was the last one for the season, so saved an hour and a half. Other bus goes at 9.15 and doesn't get in until noon and the favorite time for people to shop in Calgary is afternoon, such crowds then, so I got in about 10.20 made an appointment at quarter of twelve for my teeth to be cleaned as the dentist in Calgary is more thorough than the one here, then started first to look for a winter coat. I find I am just like Aunt Grace eyes in shopping. didn't she hate Boston and getting new clothes. Wanted a Harris tweed coat if possible with chamois lining. There were 2, one bright blue and no lining and the other brown, just about the right size, mean't + needed two hats, 1 brown, 1 dark blue or black, no luck there but later at Eatons they had just two hats I could get on, one with a brim and I took both. Same with other things, even got a dress to do for the train and then remembered trains are Air conditioned now-a-days so aren't hot as they used to be. Even found a seat right away at the lunch counter during the rush and most everything went like that. I was on the go all the time and caught the 3 P.M. bus home. but did a lot for 4 hours.

It is a good way to go as you don't have to bother about driving or finding a place to park and it's only 2½ hours by bus and lands you right in the center of things. Had Mrs Bunn from Banff to talk to on the way down and a lady from Vancouver on the way back so it was pleasant that way and Pete met me at 5.30.

We have been busy looking out things for the big trip. Made our reservations for Saturday so we reach Toronto Monday night and should be in Concord about Saturday October 1st. thought it would be nice to have the weekends on account of seeing Russell too.

Had to take out all the camping equipment and boxes in the Jeep, Pete did most of it but quite a lot to put away in the house. Erling Strom has been in, was down for doffee yesterday afternoon and it may work out just right for he comes in from Assinaboine this coming Saturday and wants to take our Jeep and might even drive us to the train in it if he gets in in time.

Had a nice letter from Rusty to-day, sounds as if he liked the school, shall have to write him we are going east as he kept telling us we should.

To-morrow we are going to Calgary to have Pete's

glasses adjusted, he wants to get there about nine so we will leave about 6.30. Then he can get the man right off if he is there we probably will be back home by noon. Sort of different from my trips but if we combine them I feel hurried knowing Pete is waiting to go home. Men are poor shoppers I find.

We had Barbara in and also Bill Jamieson this afternoon always lots of things to see to at the last minute it seems and we are trying to get as many done ahead of time as possible.

Will write again before we leave but haven't ~~any~~ address for you to write to after you get this, for we will be on our way I expect.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Friday, Sept. 23, 1955

Dearest Mother,

Only time for a short note as there is always twice as much to do as one expects. My new coat has gotten lost in the mail so may arrive in an uncleaned one after all. Pete may not even get some pants he was having made ! Also don't be surprised if I have a lot of white hairs, in fact seem to have gotten very gray this summer, especially in certain lights, won 't wash my hair before arrival so it won't be quite as noticable.

We leave to-morrow at 4 P.M. and get to Toronto Monday evening. We hope to start out on Monday for Concord but can't go too fast the first thousand miles.

Will maybe write from the train if I get a chance Had a stormy week but is clear and lovely to-day, heavy frost this morning, they had 6½ inches of snow in Balgaty Wed. and Thurs and it drifted to 2 feet or more in places. roads terrible they say, cars stuck etc.

Will be seeing you soon.

Heaps of love,

Catharine

Canadian Pacific Railway

EN ROUTE

On the
Canadian
Monday.

Dearest Mother, just a few lines
to mail when we reach Toronto.
The trip across has been very
nice & restful too.

The Canadian
is the new streamlined train
the Canadian Pacific put on
this summer. Has two Dome
cars, where you can sit &
view the scenery. They are
really better than one would

expect. They have a "dome"
on top of the observation car.
It's like sitting in a glass topped
bus, nicely air conditioned &
strangely enough one doesn't
seem to be going fast & the
scenery doesn't flash by
as you see it all easily.
can look down the top of
the train in front of you.

We had a bedroom, bath
across the train & a nice
toilet, a little smaller than
a compartment but also
air conditioned & fresh air
at night, not the usual

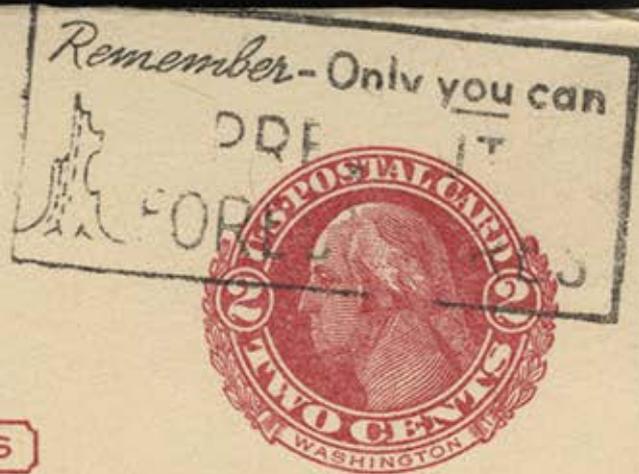
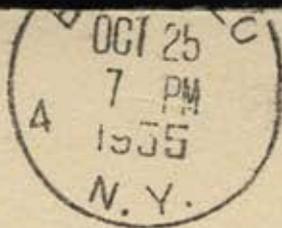
close feeling. The trains are so clean with Diesel engines that the paper doesn't even brush you off any more & not a bit of dust even on the window sills.

Also a coffee shop where you can get small & less expensive meals.

It's hard to realize we are in the east & hope to be in Concord the end of this week. Will try to let you know later when we get the jeep. It's going to be awfully good to see you.

Loads of love

Pete & Catherine.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs Russell Robb AR.

Concord,

Massachusetts,

mon. P.M.

we reached Utica to night a little
after 5. Had a pleasant trip -
overcast but no rain until
we were on the thru. way & then
after leaving Schenectady it
got very dark & low clouds &
suddenly near Amsterdam
N.Y. a terrific wind squall
blew dust & leaves & branches
& almost blew us off the
road. Then a driving rain,
thunder & lightning. Stopped
all traffic. Quite a storm
& such a sharp wind. Quite
exciting. However it has
stopped raining. We have a
nice new Motel near Utica.
Got the ham sandwiches on
the Taconic Trail. They tasted
very good. It was such a
nice visit in every way thanks
to you all. Hard to realize we
are headed west. Sorry to miss
Russ. Loads of love. P. C.



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This is where we stayed last night. The theme was a lot of difference in covering the miles. Our new regular with Pauline #27 - best ever. The weather is hot. Lot of love.

PLACE
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HERE
4C-K 827

POST CARD

*Mrs Edith M. Robb
Box 306
Concord
Mass.*



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On US-27 — Harrison, Mich.



BUDD LAKE MOTEL

For the "Rest" of Your Life

HARRISON

:::

MICHIGAN

Wednesday -
Oct. 26, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We are about one third of the way or just over a thousand miles. Have really gone further than we expected & very lucky so far in many ways.

First day, Monday we reached Greenfield in about 2 hours, still some cold & very pretty though overcast. It didn't rain, hot & humid. Not much seen going over Delahoussier - too hazy. Ate the nice lunch Mary gave us on the Taebnic (?) trail, then to Troy & Schenectady & hit the New York thru-way. Some where near Amsterdam it grew very oppressive & dark low clouds ahead. In fact grew very dark & all of a sudden there was wind. Great clouds of dust blew along one road & looked like drifting snow. Leaves & even small branches hit the windshield & down came the rain. We just kept going but all the fast traffic slowed down & so did we. There was thunder & lightning & very heavy rain, & regular white caps on the canal we were passing at the time. It was quite exciting & very dark. We drove in the storm until near Utica were wondering where we would find motels

as there are none on the thru way & exits only at 10 or 20 mile intervals. Happened to notice a few cabins on a parallel road & needing gas as well got off the road at Utica. asked the man at the gate when we paid the Toll & there was a brand new Motel a block away. It was pouring rain & we were glad to find it very comfortable & convenient. Had a poor supper in a diner but it was fern & tasted good. → it was close enough to walk the rain having let up a bit, but all night it stormed & we could hear sleet hitting the car during the night.

Next morning we woke at 5 A.M. so got up for an early start. Our new coffee pot worked just right & we made coddled eggs & with fruit juice bread & coffee had a good breakfast. It was dark when we left at six AM & no sooner were back on the thru-way to Buffalo than the first snowy squall hit. Seemed like winter as the thick flakes came towards us. It was cold too. It seemed to come in heavy squalls but cleared up at times & was even sunny for 10 or 15 minutes & then we'd run into snow again. Luckily it melted as soon as it hit but when it cleared about 8 A.M. we could see the distant hills (where route 20 goes) all white & later heard on the radio there was 4 inches of snow in some parts of the state.

We were on the New York Thru-way until Buffalo so made good time. After that the roads were good but lots of traffic & towns to go through & lights which hold one up. Also the speed limits in all towns. However we could have gone beyond Cleveland but wanted to try the Ohio Thru Way & once on it no place to stay & also the Cleveland traffic from 4 on is something like Boston.

So after driving 387 miles we found a nice motel at Wickford near Wilby Ohio & the man there told us of a 30 mile country road to the Thru-way we could take next morning & so save going near or through Cleveland. He also suggested a good restaurant not far from there where we had very

7
good Prime Ribs of Beef that night.

But most fun was the T.V. set in each room. Place was fairly bristling with T.V. antennas. Pete had great fun watching Roy Rogers & another amusing Western for 25¢. Then it quiet in the most exciting part so we put in 10¢ more & got part of a Walt Disney. It had a large screen & was much easier to watch than yours. Maybe you would enjoy a big screen better! After supper we saw Jimmy Durante, Bob Hope & Betty Hutton & it was pretty awful. We both decided once more we are glad we haven't a Television set.

Wednesday was a lovely day + clear + warm. In fact rather hot on the sunny side. We were off by 6 A.M. + drove through lovely country-side to the thru way. Sort of like parts of New England. We went through Gatz Mills, as one goes through parts of Carlisle + I think it's the place George Watkins lives. Sounded familiar. It so is lovely + high too. Didn't know it was so hilly near Cleveland.

The Thru-Way was very good + beautiful country. In some places we crossed whole valleys on a bridge. a river + town below the road in one spot. It's really quite wonderful.

It was 11 AM when we got to Angola in Indiana & needed an oil change. Found a good Buick Garage with Shell Gas. very nice people. The man there advised us to mass Chicago & go north on # 27 straight up to Mackinaw City & cross the ferry there as the Ludington ones don't run on schedule. & then go to Duluth.

So we headed north, about noon & drove until 5. did 434 miles yesterday & reached Harrison, Michigan. The roads were good & not too much traffic & interesting country. quite a variety from farms to wild wooded districts. & lakes. Great for shooting & fishing & lots of holiday spots.

Funny part is the only place we have seen lots of hunters with rifles was on the outskirts of Buffalo. right in + around the city. would think they might shoot more people than deer.

This morning it was nice again + we left at 6. just a slight glow in the east. drove nearly 150 miles to Mackinaw + just missed the 9 o'clock ferry. We didn't know the times they left to cross the straits. however we got gas + stopped + took the 10 AM one. It's 45 minutes crossing. They are building a tremendous bridge like the Golden Gate one. putting in the pylons + the 2 big towers. would think

it might be the largest suspension bridge in the world.

It's been really lovely today. warm & balmy. & so pretty along Lake Michigan. The oaks were lovely yesterday & the tamaracs to-day. Still yellow leaves. They say they had a regular blizzard on Monday at 11 A.M. 3 inches of snow & so cold. We have been lucky.

Had lunch by the water sounded like the sea but no salt smell. sand dunes. Pete noticed the oil was down & thought he'd like a check & we hadn't gone 5 blocks when we spotted a Willy's service garage. So it's being done

now. Evidently jeeps use more oil the first few thousand miles. Just lucky as there are few jeep places where one can have the car serviced.

We are now headed west on #2 highway across the northern part of the U.S. are making as much time as possible while the weather stays good.

Rather a scribble as I'm writing this on my lap. Feel too lazy to write much after we stop at night.

That really was a lovely visit & we will try to fly on often after this for just about 2 week stays.

Ready to start again &
am running out of ink.
Hope to get home in four
days or maybe five from
here. Next Tues or Wed.

Loads of love & thanks
again & do write us about
Russell's trip to see Rusty.
Had we thought we should
have stayed one more day
to hear about it.

More love

Pete & Catharine.

Fort McLeod.
Sunday P.M.
Oct. 30, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We are spending our last night in the same Motel we have stayed in before, were here last summer when we went to the Indian Ceremony at Stand-off & the Air Show. We could have gone home but had already driven 450 miles today & another 190 seemed too much. Have had a good dinner & soon will be so sleepy we will have to turn in.

Have had a good trip & been so lucky with the weather & every thing else. Last time I wrote was the letter when the Jeep was being

serviced & there was no
 time to read it over. That
 was in Marquette, Michigan
 & a lovely afternoon as we drove
 along the shore of Lake Michigan.
 Real Indian summer & warm.
 We went to Iron ~~Mountain~~ Mountain
 that night, a great Ski jumping
 Centre. Got a Motel right in
 town & opposite a good Café
 but it was a bit noisy & as
 we ate supper we heard a
 Railway crossing signal we
 hadn't noticed, & discovered
 the rail road went right by
 the back of the very modern
 new motel. Fortunately only
 one train went through that
 night & Pete said it must
 have had a hundred cars.
 I never heard it at all, but

I spent some time listening to guests next door talking extra loud + Pete slept through that!

Our coffee pot has worked very well each morning, except one place it blew a fuse + the lights went out, all except the bathroom. It's dark when one gets up at 5 A.M. but we have left each morning by 6 A.M. + stop about 4 or 5 + go to bed about 8 or 9.

The morning we left Iron Mountain seemed extra dark + soon after leaving we noticed lights on the main highway + men waving. As we got nearer. (It was way out in the country) we found two

enormous trucks, one parked
 on either side of the road
 with lights on + flares out.
 A man with a broom sweeping
 glass off the road, he directed
 us through the swept part. There
 was a woman + man who
 appeared to live in the house
 close by + just beyond the
 glass a large orange car
 upside down in the ditch. The
 roof so squashed in one
 wondered how any one could
 get out. There was a car
 Corvus behind us so we
 just kept on + didn't stop
 + shall always wonder
 what happened. There were
 skid marks on the highway
 + it must have happened
 fairly recently. It didn't

look as if the trucks were involved & they might have just stopped to help. That was the only accident we saw, though one car on the Pan-Way suddenly turned across the road as if a tire had blown but didn't do more than park on the center grass & we saw a dead steer this morning at the side of a Montana road. No doubt hit at night.

The day we left from Montana we drove across part of Michigan all of Wisconsin & most of Minnesota. That was Friday. We made good time there were so few towns & mostly wild country, woods & lakes. Went through Superior with the large Iron Ore & Coal

6

loading piers but went by
Duluth. It was very interesting
& the cloud effects have been
so changeable & lovely. We ran
into a "cold front" near Duluth
the clouds were banked off to
the North west & soon we started
to have light rain. We lunched
before it was too heavy. Pete
was driving when it started to
feel cold & soon it was snowing.
Thicker & thicker until the ground
was white. It was before we
got to Deer Lake, a narrow bit
of old road & more traffic than
any other part. One truck could-
n't get by another & the cars
got lined up & the snow got
thicker & we all had lights
on. We realized then we
could be started on bad weather
the rest of the way.

once by the truck the snow
let up, then it stopped raining
& by Benning it was just
windy & threatening. We got an
oil change & took turns
getting pie & coffee & started
on. Suddenly we noticed a
streak of pale blue sky
along the horizon ahead & it
grew larger as we drove
towards it, until by late
afternoon we drove right out
from under the storm area
into a cloudless day. It was
rather exciting for we drove
through the whole storm
area as it had been sunny
in the early morning. Of
course we went over 400
miles & the storm must
have covered 200 miles
of it. On the radio it told

8

of rain in northern Michigan
& how the storm proceeded
east. South of us they had
rain for 2 days. Yet Saturday
was perfect for us. Warm &
sunny.

Friday night we got to
Crookston. Drove back to the
center of town for an especially
good steak dinner. Then went
to a Piggly-Wiggly store for
some groceries as the stores
were all open that night & we
needed more bread eggs etc
for our breakfasts & lunches
en route.

Such a lot of people &
then we discovered each
customer got a Bingo card
to play & I suppose there was
a grand prize of groceries for
the winner. We got all we

needed to make a quick
 get away before the game
 started, but most of the
 people were enjoying it all
 & standing around making
 it next to impossible to get
 up & down the aisles. We
 gave our cards to some little
 girls to play. They were so
 pleased. Hope they were lucky.

Saturday was clear &
 warm but again we had
 a funny weather experience.
 The skies are so immense
 out west & we made such
 good time we got a new
 idea of weather. There were
 a few clouds in the afternoon
 & they got thicker as we went
 west. Quite low they were.
 Then we felt a chilly wind

from the north & the clouds
became fog. It seemed as if
the fields of black soil were
all steaming. in some places
the wind blew the steam
like smoke. It was very
thick before long & we could
only see a short distance &
the sun no longer visible.
Then we began to run out
from under & it all cleared
off again as quickly as
it had happened. Must
have covered 50 miles of
country, but as we do
about 50 miles each hour
the roads are so good one
runs through local storms
very fast. We crossed North
Dakota & spent last night
in Wolf Point Montana.

Bedtime now. It stormed almost today. We ran along the edge of an oncoming storm from the south west & got a little rain. Then clear sky as we headed north. More clouds before we got here. Supposed to be snow flurries we will see to-morrow.

Will mail this in

Calgary -

Monday. Just a week since we left Concord. It's winter now. Snow on the Jeep when we left. Mailed at 6.30 & the first 15 miles a glare of ice. one car already in the ditch but lucky we ran onto dry road. Snow drifting across & 19 above in Calgary. no snow reported yet in Banff & only an inch here now in Calgary. - so should be home by 7PM! Will mail this now in Calgary, B.C.

Banff,
Alberta.
Tues. Nov 1, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Just a quick note to let you know we arrived safely. It was lucky we stayed the night in Macleod as the road from Calgary to Banff was very slippery that night but all dried off by the time we drove up on Monday. We got here at 12.30 and had brought in only one armful each of stuff from the car when Harold and Jonny came running over. Harold had spotted the Jeep from the bathroom window and Jonny still had a mouthful of food for he was eating dinner. Barbara and Bubby came soon after and there was much talking and catching us up to date with the local happenings. Harold's trip to Assinaboine and Penny the dog being nearly killed by the deer. etc.

We managed some lunch and then out to try and see Dave Prosser and Eldon where we got our mail, and to shop for food etc. Margorie Crosby came over when we got back, she lives on the other side of us and they too keep an eye on the house, we took her to the station to get some tickets and then Bubby down to the train for Calgary as she started work to-day. The Pogues who live on the top floor of Barbaras also got home yesterday and we did much talking etc. Also the cleaners noticed our gate open and brought back the living room rug which was cleaned, all very convenient.

To-day we have had the oil changed etc in the Jeep and Vern was down and then we even had three Indians, Pete thinks they must have seen us drive through Morley. Now we must go for mail and to the bank etc. etc.

Such a nice letter from you waiting for us, we too thought the visit was just lovely in every way and hope we may have many more. Was very interested in the clipping on modern Art you sent.

Must go, more later,

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Friday, Nov. 4, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Pete wrote you yesterday so I have waited one more day to write. It has been a little hard to settle down and know where to start doing things for there is so much to be done. We have gotten unpacked and most everything stowed away but as we hadn't really put away the things we used for camping in the Jeep last summer there was a lot to do and still is, however we will try to get things in order a bit at a time.

We were so lucky in the weather. When we left I thought we should have one more week in Banff so as not to miss the fall color here but Pete thought it was far better to have that week for the trip and so head back a week sooner, and just lunky we did. They have had one of the worst storms in history on Lake Superior and Michigan, just where we were, and even had we been one day later on the prairies we would have had snow and wind. right now they are having blizzard conditions where we came through. and ever since we got home it has been winter here, Monday was warm in a way, warmer than in Calgary and no snow on the ground. We talked of raking leaves off the lawn and cutting the larkspur and I should have done it the next afternoon but it was damp and cold and I left it. Then Wednesday it started to ~~to~~ **SNOW** out nice but was only 4° above zero and the river had frozen over and by afternoon it was overcast and a fine snow. Thursday it snowed all day and we had 4 inches or more, blew a little as well. To-day Friday is milder and even a little rain so lots of the snow has gone but when it freezes which it may do any minute it will most likely be icy for the rest of the winter, it's mostly slush right now. and then again we might have one more mild spell.

I gather from your last letter written last Friday and Sunday that Mr Loring is still alive. We were sorry to hear about Miss Barrett having such bad luck, Mrs Bordman said something about it on the phone, expect maybe it was an internal bruise, I remember Jack Kennedy had something like that on his leg up at Seal Harbor years ago. Nice that Aunt Julie could go for a ride as I don't think she had been out the last two weeks we were in Concord. She seems to have slowed up a lot since we were in Concord before but I imagine that is largely because of her eyes as at her age they wouldn't focus as quickly as they used to before the operations. Pete finds the same trouble and it was a long time before he had confidence in going places that were unfamiliar.

The new Motels are really nice, one of the big advantages is that ~~they don't have a car~~ you park your car right at the door and take your own bags in and out and if you forget something it is nothing to run out and get it, also you can keep an eye on the car if you have much in it. Another thing you don't have to wait to pay a bill in the morning, you

pay when you arrive and they don't always show you to the ~~note~~ room but give you the key and tell you the number sometimes. Then in the morning you just leave the key in the door or room and away you go. There is a nice looking motel on the new road north from West Concord, you should go and have a look at it some day, ~~and~~ y

Saturday, As you see I didn't do too well on this yesterday, in the afternoon as it was melting and dripping we thought it a good idea to clean the leaves that had fallen after we left out of the gutters, and just as well we did for a lot had accumulated and the water couldn't run freely, but it took quite a while with the ladder etc. Then Erling Strom called in, he is the one who has our old Jeep and he is getting as much of a kick out of it as we are out of our new one.

It is lovely and clear this morning, about 22 and may get warmer, I hope so for if the snow melted we might get some of the leaves raked off the lawn, though I don't suppose it really matters. We have had the two big Elk round each night fighting and making quite a ~~commotion~~ commotion with the clashing of antlers and then they sort of squeak and make funny noises, rather queer for such large animals. This morning one came so close to the house he hit his antlers against the logs and I looked out one of the little wind - ows and directly below so I could have touched him was a huge Elk, he got his antlers caught in the hop vine and was rather annoyed when he tried to move away and found it was looped over one prong, sort of twisted his head to free himself, as he moved off eating the grass I noticed a big fold of skin hanging down from his body but he didn't turn enough to see if he had been ripped open by the other Elk or not. Funny part is they still go round to-gether, the other Elk has a prong broken off.

I have unpacked the little candy dish you gave me and filled it with what is left of the nice hard candy Mercelia gave us for the trip. It is going to be just right to keep on the table for a nibble now and then. The silhouette came in good shape and I don't think it flaps lose any more than it did before. We haven't decided just where to hang it as yet but are thinking of rearranging the pictures a bit any way.

If I can find a map of our trip will mark it for you,

Loads of love

Catharine

Bayff.
Nov. 8, 1955.

Dear Mother. Will send you the
skunk as some how it seems
a queer animal to use on note
paper. (They might not under-
stand - another new issue
of stamps out to-day so

thought you might like some
too.

A nice letter from you to-day
saying that Kitty was to arrive
soon. Will be keen to hear all
about her trip.

Glad to know that you have
the chair from Cousin Harriets
& the two tables. Are they the

little ones? What was finally decided?

Met Mrs Hayes this morning & she said she had just heard from her daughter-in-law who drove east with a friend. They were so relieved to get to good roads as they had icy ones all the way & it was a terrible trip! We were surely

luckey. It is mild to-day
40° & melting a little but
overcast. so ^{the snow of ice} won't go very fast.
Have had wintery weather
ever since we got back.

Won't write more this
time. You can tear off the
bottom & use it if you like
for someone.

Loads of love

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Nov. 10, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Had rather a busy afternoon or might have written more, We cleaned and tidied this morning, Pete his workbench and I the desk, got it dusted though nothing attended to. Have plans of doing the floor to-morrow morning early before the Armistice services and hoped to get the shelves cleaned too, but as it was still mild and up to 40 with a cold wind due later, we decided to clean the windows upstairs of fly specks put on while we were east. However as we were eating lunch the wind changed and the temperature dropped ten degrees, so we only did the inside of the windows after all. Then Sam Ward came and before he left. Carl and Laura Sakander who are now in Moose Jaw. He is a Banff boy and in the R.C.A.F. They were having tea when Linnie Becker came from school to tell us about their trip to California, she was awfully cute about it and evidently got a lot out of it. Then Jon arrived to tell us that the House Beautiful with Frank Lloyd Wrights houses in it was at the store, then Patsy Mackenzie came in, so we had quite a busy afternoon. The last one leaving just before six. In the meantime there is a strong cold wind blowing and it was 18 above at supper time.

Yesterday I dusted most of the kitchen and then we did the downstairs windows, outside too. maybe our last chance for it was about 40. It rained in the night, so most of the snow has gone but the roads are still icy.

Friday. Armistice Day. and it is real winter. -8° below and a cold gusty wind from the north. -15° in Calgary so guess we are lucky. Snowed a tiny bit last night when the wind let up a little. We were late getting up as it was dark and I haven't done the floor, maybe will do it to-morrow, would like to get it done before Florence comes on Monday, hope we have it a little milder and some sun for the day she is here. She arrives on the Canadian Monday afternoon about 4 P.M. We have a room for her at the Mt Royal but will keep her here most of the time and hope it is nice on Tuesday so we can drive her around and then she leaves at 4 for the west.

Sorry we missed Margaret Watkins and hoped she understood why we didn't take time to stop in Detroit to see them this trip. Had we stopped to visit all the friends and relations we would have liked to have seen we wouldn't have been home yet, after all the visit was to see you and we didn't spend time otherwise coming or going.

The Bonthingham's house sounds very nice, I wish I had looked at it when passing or can't one see it from Monument st.

Am glad Russell was able to get the chair and tables from Cousin Harriet's, What are they to do with the rest I wonder.

I wouldn't think Mrs Sohier was over 70, don't you suppose it is a misprint.

I don't wonder there are lots of hornets in the house with nests like that about. Don't wonder the Science museum was interested. Hope they took the hornets too !

Thanks for the picture of the Grebe. We have seen them in the river but usually only one or two at a time. Johnny says that he didn't see them when they came on their way south, they seemed to be at the other end of town. We ordered the Calgary Herald for a month and that is why the papers still keep coming, we thought Mary would enjoy them as there is quite a bit of Nova Scotia news in them.

I'm sorry now we didn't leave you some of the better slides, the newer ones, but you know you said you didn't think you would be showing them, Will try to send some when I look over ours. It will be a major operation to sort out this winter, most likely after Christmas.

Why not get Frances to help you ? she has a projector too. you might enjoy seeing her slides as you did ours. 200 slides would take a little over an hour, it all depends on how fast you show them. We showed about 150 when we were there that last night.

Yes. we do take the National Geographic.

Must go now to the Armistice ceremony at the Cenetaph. It will be cold for a parade and standing while the wreaths are put on.

Lots of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Nov. 13, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Just realized it is Russell's birthday, I thought of it a couple of days ago and should have written right away then. Florence comes to-morrow, sure hope she doesn't mind cold weather, It was lovely and sunny to-day and finally got up to ten below but for the last three days it hasn't gotten warmer than eight below and somehow it seems awfully cold for the first half of November, this morning when we got up it was twenty-five below and to-night is all sort of frosty looking and dropping now the sun has gone down, and the weather man says no relief in sight. The poor people at the coast, was just 9 above in Vancouver and that is cold any time of the year there. Well we either will have a nice mild spell after this or winter has started and it will be a long cold one. Just lucky we came back when we did.

Did I write you Armistice Day? It was so cold they even gave up the big parade in Calgary and instead of any sort of ceremony at their cenataph they held it inside the Stampede Coræal a big arena. Here only the Vets paraded, they always have a service at the Auditorium and then march up the main street to the cenataph where the various organizations lay wreaths and they have taps and raise the flag etc. It was bitterly cold with a wind and I think damper than usual as it had rained the morning before during the night so there must have been moisture in the air left over. Any-way everyone felt the cold more than usual.

Friday afternoon Pete cleaned his workshop in places and I cleaned the kitchen cupboards out. Harold was over for our step ladder to put a storm window up, and then stopped and talked about his plans as this is his last ^{year} of school. He is hoping to go to Kigston for an army training, has quite a lot of ambition.

Staurday was sixteen below, 20° below in Calgary and it never got warmer than ten below during the day. Did the usual weekay cleaning and in the afternoon Pete started to work on an old painting, it's hard to get started again. We hope to get the Christmas cards printed this week.

To-day Sunday was lovely and clear but 25 below is rather chilly even if the sun is bright. Pete wanted to see how the Jeep would start so about 9.30 we took a drive up the west road, also to see how the road building is getting on, the men were just starting to work when we came back, grading. Not all of the machines were going. Then we drove out the east road and across a new bridge over the old Cascade river. The road is being built so we couldn't go far and were surprised when we turned to see what a wonderful view of Cascade the people driving into Banff will get. The waterfal can be seen for it's entire length and the whole mountain is framed nicely by the slopes of either side of the road. We were quite impressed.

Then I cleaned out the cupboard in the bathroom which hadn't been done for ages. So many things like that to do and I am trying to get them all done this winter early. This afternoon we took Jonny to the Post Office and then called in to see Bev who has just moved into Mom's little house, as the tenants who were there this summer had to move to the coast. Worked just right for now Young Cliff White and Bev will have it. They haven't much furniture yet but otherwise are moved. Then we went up to Sam and Cis Wards as we hadn't seen Cis since our return. Think we cheered them up for Cis hates cold weather, she said it was 34 below up there but I can't believe it was that much colder up there. Stayed to tea and have just come home.

Such a nice letter from you. What a lot of rain you had, lucky we missed that too. Pete says it wasn't all luck for we planned the trip so as to be back by Nov. 1st. by leaving here a week earlier than we would have otherwise. But this weather would have been something and the roads so slippery too.

How interesting about the hornets nest, I think you were smart letting the Museum know about it. Maybe next time we will see it on display! *How about sending them some hornets from inside the house to go with it*

Supper time now, will wait until later to finish.

*Lots of love
Catharine*

Monday. Fourteen below this morning and it looked like snow but has cleared by noon, just hopes it at least stays clear, no sign of a break it says.

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Nov. 16, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Should really have written you yesterday but we are anxious to get started coloring the cards and I had a few woolen things to wash in the morning while Pete was experimenting and while he put the red and yellow shirts on the first hundred in the afternoon I dusted the ceiling and logs in the front room for it was bright and sunny and in a few days the sun will be behind the mountain in the afternoons.

Florence's visit was very nice from our point of view and she did have a lovely clear day on Tuesday even if it was cold. actually it got up to 5° above so was warmer than it had been for four days.

It really worked just right for us as Mr Clarke at the Crag and Canyon printing office had told us he would print the cards in the afternoon and we just hoped we could work it so that we would be there to see that the color was right as they put that on first. We went round in the morning Monday and he said to come at 2 P.M. so we did the shopping and a wash and such like at home, then spent practically all the afternoon at the printing office. One of the young lads let a "pin" (part of the machinery) fall in front of the line cut, it was purely accidental, but they did manage to patch up the cut enough so it doesn't really show, otherwise we would have had to wait a week for a new cut to be made in Calgary. But it slowed things down a bit. The Canadian is due at 4 P.M. but was an hour late, then 1½ hours and later 2 hours late, a freight wreck in the east caused the delay. We were sorry that Florence didn't see the mountains coming in for it was dark when she arrived but in a way it made it more exciting for her as it was all a surprise when she looked out in the morning.

We kept going back and forth from the Crag to the house and the station. Lona was here one time with a present they had gotten us in Carmel California, cute little square dishes with our name on them. "Pete" and "Catharine" We took her home, then met the train. My but it felt cold as it was about 10° below at the time and a bit of a wind from the north, but Florence was well bundled up, extra sweaters and stockings. We went first to the Mt Royal where we had a nice big room for her and where she could have her breakfast. Then she spent the rest of the time with us.

We had steak the first night, for supper was a bit later than usual and we talked until 9 o'clock when she began to get sleepy for it was really 11 her old time. Then Tuesday morning we had to be at the Crag at quarter to nine to see the last of the printing, for if the black cut hadn't worked with the repairs they made we would have let them make a new one in Calgary, Pete stayed and I went over to pick up Florence and about ten we started out

on a drive with Pete doing the driving. We first went up to Norquay to show her the Ski grounds and it was a really lovely sparkling morning, the mountains at their best covered with snow and though it was at least 10' below the sun was warm and we had the heater on in the Jeep. We saw a whole flock of mountain sheep on the road, rams and ewes and little ones which was fun and 3 deer. Then we drove out to Lake Minnewanka which was steaming as it is only frozen around the edge as yet, and back and across to the little road from Anthracite to Tunnel Mt and around and back by the drive across from the Banff Springs. Took us 2 hours, we picked up more food on the way back and so as not to waste time had another steak and broccili with hollandaise sauce. Then after lunch there was time to go up by the Banff Springs, to the Bow Falls and the Museum and back herefor about half an hour before her train left at four. It was on time so she would see the mountains pretty well as far as the Great Divide or Feild.

She said she was rver very good at expressing herself but we think she really enjoyed it all and it was quite an experience coming in winter. We were so relieved it was a lovely day for otherwise with it so cold it might not have been very nice.

Must go now and help Pete with the cards, we are anxious to get them done, wish you were here to help, am sure you could put on one of the colors too.

Loads of love
Catharine

**Rare Raccoon Is Shot
In Chicken Coop Raid**

CALMAR (CP) — Mrs. A. Faulk collected a rare trophy when she shot a raccoon that was raiding her chicken coop.

The zoology department of the University of Alberta said the animals are seldom found in Alberta.

on Calgary Herald.

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Nov. 20, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Expect you will get this about Thanksgiving time. Had nice letters from both Mildred and Cousin Jane to-day saying they would be with you as well as Cousin Emma for Thanksgiving and I take it that the Palmers won't be there this year. Will make a smaller group and be easier for you.

We are working hard to finish the Christmas cards and color from 9.30 in the morning until perhaps 3 if nothing interferes, To-day there was a funeral we went to at 2.30 and yesterday a food sale, but that only took about 15 minutes to get a cake somebuns and a pie, saves baking on my part and the stuff is much better as a rule. Thank goddness food sales pay in Banff and there is one nearly evey Saturday.

Have had quite a bit of company each afternoon at tea time, Sam was over Friday, working in the shop for a while and so made him a cup of tea and then Mary Lee Mather and Lona Becker came along. They haven't been ^{here} for quite a while as teenagers are pretty busy and Mary Lee works at the Quaker Coffee shop weekends and some afternoons, Had quite a visit and then Pete Tasker from Bow Summit, (he is the game warden there) dropped in too. Yesterday Mrs Simpson came over for tea and a nice chat and to-day we picked Pearl Moore up at the funeral, drove out the west road to see what they had been blasting this week and then back for tea.

Am thinking of going to Calgary on a Christmas shopping expedition Tuesday, for it is hard to get things here, especially books, they have so few to choose from, and we hope to finish the cards to-morrow by working hard at it.

Such a fine long letter from you, written last Sunday, they are always interesting so don't you worry about nothing to write.

What a shame you missed Mrs Webster, Why not write her a note and tell her to come again next time she is in Concord but to let you know first so you will be in and maybe she would bring Betty Hiam Valentine with her.

Wonder if after the nice mild spell and flowers you had our cold wave. Funny Mrs Cochrane struck the same storm we did going west. When one travels the way we did one has a better idea of the way weather works.

Must write a few business things, haven't done any in the day time lately so much else to do. Hope you all have a lovely Thanksgiving to-gether and we will try to remember ^{that day to} think of you. We had a roast of Moose Jimmy Simpson gave us for dinner today so may still be eating cold moose by Thursday.

Wish we had had it for Florence. Loads of love Catharine.

Banff, Alta.
Thurs. Nov. 24, 1955

Dearest Mother,

It is nearly ten o'clock here so expect you will soon be sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner, so we will be thinking of you when we eat our Moose and you are devouring turkey. It will seem a different sort of Thanksgiving to you without the young people and not even a man to carve the turkey but am sure you ladies will have a nice time together and it was so nice that you could include the two friends of Mercelias for it will mean a lot to them, and won't be so tiring to you. You, Aunt Julie and Cousin Emma will be the only ones not school teachers.

We are still having cold weather, below zero most mornings, We practically finished the Christmas cards on Monday and I only had a little to do yesterday, so Tuesday decided to go to Calgary by bus, it is so hard to park anywhere if we take the car and you know men hate to shop so I always feel hurried if Pete goes. It makes a long day but an easy one by bus.

It was a beautiful morning, clear and ten below zero when we left, a few misty clouds on some mountains making lovely effects and of course they are all snow covered and long shadows. I was lucky and sat next to the mother of a Mrs Meridith in Banff. Her name was Powell and she came out from Lancashire in 1918 to Calgary with five children and then had four more, now she has 25 great grandchildren and is one of the brightest and smartest ladies I ever saw. She is 84 and just full of life. It was really worth the trip to Calgary to meet her and after all you get quite well acquainted in 2½ hours. She had a wonderful philosophy of life and though a couple of years ago she was in a bus accident where the man in the front seat was killed and the bus rolled down 50 feet and only a tree stopped it from going in the river, she isn't a bit afraid of buses, said she must have been knocked out in the beginning for she doesn't remember it and just because it happened once she doesn't expect it to happen again, but she said sort of confidentially that that is the reason she never sits in the front seat. She was going home to wash the kitchen walls, has been up here for a couple of weeks but has a house in Calgary and one daughter lives in part of it, but not with her and then she has a man upstairs and maybe others. She said her daughter remarked "you aren't going up ladders mother" and she said "I asked her how else ~~ixexuldxrxaxh~~ could I reach the top." but the man upstairs helped paint it two years ago so she thinks he will do the ceiling for her. She was really fun, so it seemed a short trip to Calgary.

I always have a bite of lunch first and then rush round doing errands. Mostly Christmas shopping and especially books for the kids. The bus didn't come back until 5.15 so I had a good 5 hours which was enough and ran into several people I knew, about ten from Banff.

Yesterday was cold and dull, finished the cards and was wondering what was best to do when Harold and four girls came in.

after school. Mary Lee Mather, she wanted a book for a book review. Patsy MacKenzie and Lona Becker and a new girl to Banff from Pincher Creek, a lovely girl named Penny Warren. It was so cold looking out I offered hot chocolate instead of gingerale and they decided they would all like tea. Such a lot of overshoes and mits and school books in the back hall. Penny had to be shown all the things by Mary Lee while Harold and Lona and Patsy got into books. Such a lot of questions as they are all so keen on hearing about everything from China to Photography. We were in the midst of looking at the old photographs we took in China when Penny's father and mother came for her and had a cup of tea too.

They are a most attractive couple looking after Captain Ffrenches house this winter. He is from Dublin and speaks like Robin and she is from England. As they were leaving she said she used to live or visit in Concord with the Raymond Baldwins. Seems that Rosemary Baldwin used to visit her grandmother in England in the summer who lived right next to Mrs Warren who was about the same age (she didn't say what her name was) and then when she came over she stayed in Concord with them. I couldn't remember, but think I saw Mrs Baldwin in the Book store this last visit , but shows I am breaking up for it is so natural to see her there I couldn't quite remember if it was this trip or last. Is she still living in Concord? and where is the daughter ? Mrs Warren said she had lost track of them.

Another thing I wonder if you would find out for me. Mrs Keyes said she thought that Sted and Cal and Milly and Gerry Henderson were going on a Carribean Cruise this winter, in January or February. Could you ask Cal (who I expect is home by now) what boat they are going on? If it is The Canadian Pacific "Empress of Scotland" be sure and let us know, for we know the hostess, Jean Park, very well and it might make it more fun for them if we sort of told her they would be on her cruise. She goes on the Empress of Scotland every year.

The Pat Costigans are going to Honolulu for a month with their two small children, are flying this weekend, quite a few Banff people are going down.

Must go now.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Nov. 29, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

We just got your letter to-day about Thanksgiving it sounded very pleasant and so nice for you having the two teachers, must have mean't a lot to them. Sorry you didn't have more good slides to show them, after Christmas I hope to get ours really in order and then will send you some but am afraid I won't get at it for a while.

Must be real fun for you having the Portland relatives with you, you should ask them oftener during the winter and then you wouldn't be alone as much. Did you ever think of asking Eleanor and Charlotte Johnson up to play bridge? I think Marian Hudson plays with them.

How interesting those old records must be that they found in the Town Hall. do send any more they print in the Journal. Wasn't Mildred interested? being historical.

We still seem to keep busy with one thing or another am just wondering when I last wrote? Did I tell you about Friday afternoon? Sam was at Bev's putting on storm windows, it was chilly so we asked him for tea, Verne was staining a new inexpensive unfinished bed we got through the catalogue, just to use for the winter, so I made tea and just as Sam was leaving Amos, Amos a real Indian with braids and a good strong face came in, so I got him tea too. Sam told us to-day he met Lynn and Christine on their way to the house after school and he said to Lynn "you better watch out there's an Indian down at Pete's." and Lynn just said "Stop kidding" or something like that. So they surprised when there was an Indian after all. They had gingerale and the rest of the cake and Amos asked them all about their school as he has granddaughters their ages. We really had a good time. Afterwards Pete told them that it ~~wasn't~~ wasn't often one could meet an older Indian like that and when they grew up they might remember having had tea with an Indian with braids and who probably could remember seeing his first white man.

Did I tell you Dr. Pat Costigan, his wife Mary and their two small children, the boy about 7 the little girl 4 or 5. left Saturday morning for Honolulu. They took the train to Vancouver and then flew Sunday afternoon at 2.30 and would get to Honolulu at 9 that night. unless they were delayed. We made some prints for them to take to some of the Hawaiians, worked on them all Thursday evening and then went down to the train. It was late but as we started home saw a girl running up the road. thought she was doing it because of the cold. It was 10 below that morning, so offered her a ride. She was french and wife of the section man at the Great Divide and was trying to get to the Atkin Clinic and back

for the train Pat was going on, we felt sorry for her, as if she missed the morning train the next one wouldn't be until 2 A.M. and she said there was 3 feet of snow at the Divide and they couldn't get their car out. When I went in the clinic to see how long she would be the two little Prosser kids had just gotten their "Booster Shots," so we waited and gave them a ride home, did an errand and went back for the French girl and down to the station. Quite a morning all in all.

That afternoon we listened to the Gray Cup Football game in Vancouver, such goings on you never heard but it must have created a lot of business, especially for the railroads. The best team in the east plays the best in the west for the Gray Cup, this was the first time the game was ever played west and all sorts of special trains came through from Montreal and Toronto and Winnipeg Calgary and Edmonton. They had bands etc. The Toronto train spent a day in Calgary, it was below zero but they had a parade and goodness knows what. but it was in Vancouver the real crowds were. Never had they seen anything like it. They had to close off streets in the evenings around the big hotels. There were welcomes with bands for special trains and square dancing in the streets. They took all the furniture out of the downstairs of the Hotel Vancouver and at times there were over 4000 in the lobby, at one point they had to close the doors. A big parade with floats Saturday morning and an exciting game in the afternoon, Great goings on.

Harold has bought himself a new camera, a Leica, with his summer's earnings and spent all last evening having Pete explain it, that was why I found it difficult writing this. It is Wed. A.M. now so will end this off.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. Dec. 3, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Looks as if this should be a birthday letter. So we wish you a very Happy Birthday and will be thinking of you in a special way a week from to-day. Perhaps after all I am being a bit previous. We sent off something which I think you need quite badly so hopes it arrives in time.

Before I get interrupted I should tell you about the enclosed catalogue of books at the Boston Book & Art Shop. At times they have very interesting books and it would seem they must have bought someones collection on Japanese ones.

✓ I have marked on the cover the ones you might be interested in. There is one of Grandpa's Catalogues listed at \$50.00 (which they value at \$100) and then there is another "Chinese, Corean and Japanese Potteries" by Grandpa and a Mr R.H. Hobson. Have you ever seen it? It is \$15.00 and might be interesting to have.

Check Name name
The 3rd. book is page 19 "Epochs of Chinese and Japanese Art" by E. Fenollosa in 2 Vols. for \$25.00. "asn't he the one who was in Japan with Grandpa? Just thought you might be interested. Russ could telephone about them if you wanted any. Might be nice to have Fenollosa's book if he mentions Grandpa.

There are lots of other books too and just wish we had been there to look them over, it is so hard to tell from a distance, but we have taken a chance on some for us and some for some friends. Just hope it won't be a trouble to you but you might enjoy looking at them. They are circled in pencils *we have already ordered them*

Have had them sent to me in care of you in Concord and then after Christmas, or anytime convenient perhaps you could send a couple at a time to us, or if too hard to do up we can get them next trip east.

One book we would love for Christmas is the new "George Price's Characters" published by Simon & Shuster and they would have it at the bookstore *in Concord*.

Don't know if the bookstore works with the Boston one, but if they do they might find out about Grandpa's books and Fenalosa's for you. Or a person like Mrs Sohler might go and look at them if you maybe sent her in with George. But perhaps it will all seem toomuch trouble.

X Have been busy moving furniture around upstairs as Pete thought it would be nice if I used the big front bedroom as a studio, it has good light, especially in winter. So we have a bed set up in the old bedroom we have been using as a dressing room the last few years, then spent one afternoon putting plastic on the inside of the windows to keep them from frosting up in winter, then melting in the sun and running down and freezing again so they won't open easily. Did that Wednesday.

Y Have put the old Japanese bureau into the small bedroom which mean't changing clothes about and so it goes. Now I have the contents of that bureau, mostly materials and old curtains and bits and pieces, waiting to be sorted out, for yesterday George Nobbe told us we could have anything we wanted in an old shed back of his old store, including a real old portrait camera and stand which isn't used now.

X Sam went with us and we loaded the camera and stand with a crank to wind it up and down, into the Jeep, to-gether with odds and ends which might belong to it. an old lantern which took Sam's fancy, the cheap tin kind they used to use. a lovely green glass bottle I think will make an unusual lamp, a few funny pictures and an iron frying pan that the Simpsons might like. You would have laughed. To-morrow we are going to get an old chest and a stone for sharpening knives and some glass Sam thinks will come in handy. Of course it was all terribly dirty so I vacumed what I could of the camera, the bellows is leather and the wood work mahogany and the whole thing very well made in London nearly 50 years ago, It cost over \$400. then so you may imagine it was the best. We had the greatest fun, Pete trying the various things that turned and opened and slid and I getting traces of mice and dust off all I could. Sam stayed until nearly six trying to work some part and was back first thing this morning to try some more. Now to-day George has sold Pete his old Graflex, None of the things does he use any more and the parts in the shed he was going to send to the dump.

I still haven't started on the cards, having missed the deadline for Europe except to send them Air Mail and I want to get the room upstairs in order before setting up a desk. It is nearly bedtime now.

Your wonderful long letter came to-day, Poor Mildred, Why in the world didn't Mr Tilson get her to help in the beginning instead of waiting until the last minute, but then poor Mr Tilson. It's not really a man's kind of work sorting things like that.

What a time with the cook at the farm, do hope she is allright.

Will be writing soon .

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Dec. 7, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

I have done such a stupid thing, you think you forget things but I am worse. The post office gives one a deadline for mailing Christmas parcels to the United States and in order to be sure they get there in time for Christmas we had to post packages by Dec. 5th. I worked hard all morning and most of the afternoon with various ones dropping in. Mr Lonsdale to have a criticism and Sam and Cis Ward to say goodbye as they left to-day for California. It was quite a rush addressing them all and we couldn't remember Mary's last name, Pete thought it was Connor or O'Connor or Connell, we both seemed to remember an "O" and I tried to find your letters of last fall where you mentioned Mary going to California but no luck so we just took a stab at it. Then last night in a letter from Mildred to you she sent her best to " Mary Osborne " and then I knew.

So if a little parcel comes addressed to "Mrs Mary O'connor, Box 306" you tell George who it is for. or you keep it until Christmas and take the paper off, the outside.

Luckily it has been a little milder, we were up at the Wards twice yesterday to see if there was anything we could do. they closed the house this time and it means draining everything and farming out the plants etc. They had most everything done, spent the night at the next door neighbors and then we went up at 8.30 and drove them to the bus. They go as far as Fort MacLeod to-night. That was where we spent out last night on the way home. They have friends there and may stay a night or two. One nice thing about the bus you can go when you like and stop off where you want to. There is always one hotel in each place which keeps enough rooms until after the bus is in. So you don't have to worry about booking ahead at this time of year. They are going to a friend in Long Beach near Los Angeles.

I forgot to mention what Moose ~~steak~~ meat tastes like. It is like any steak with a subtle difference depending on the age of the Moose meat. just a little gamey.

Must get busy on the Xmas notes, think I told you they are all addressed and last night I sorted out my piles of unanswered letters during the year, for this is my one chance to catch up with my correspondence.

Will be writing soon again.

Loads of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Dec. 18, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

I have neglected you lately and still have cards to be sent out, but will just dash off a few lines before supper and then try to finish all the notes for out of town people in the evening. Would have been finished except for company one evening.

Do hope you are feeling better, perhaps it was the excitement of the birthday that tired you a bit more than usual, hope by now you are all recovered.

You didn't tell us about the tea party that Kitty gave for you, only that you were going, so do tell us who was there as I believe it was a surprise to you. Think you did well with the presents, maybe next year your friends can sort of draw names so each one will have someone else in mind when they give you a present. So after you get the pleasure in the gift you will have someone to pass it on to. In schools they sometimes do that, for parties, each student draws a name and everyone gets a present.

You will wonder at one of your Christmas presents but it can be passed right on, all of them can for that matter and we won't mind.

Glad to know that the books came but don't hurry about sending them until later, for we can wait or can get any too big when we next go east.

Two parcels have come from you, don't forget you have really given us our Christmas present, the lovely silhouette. Can't spell it. Thanks for all.

Monday. It is 4 PM and must run to catch the afternoon mail, have just addressed the last but two cards,

Just heard from Frances that Aunt Julie is in the Phillips House so will be looking for word from you about it. Frances letter was mailed the 16th. from Waltham. got it this morning. Do let us know if it is serious or not. Will write a real Christmas letter in a day or two.

This new ribbon is a present for you I guess. much darker. In regards to the article on Kreighoff in MacLeans, borrow it from Cousin Bert and I will send you ours after Christmas but too late maybe for Mildred to read in Concord.

Heaps of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Dec. 20, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

A Happy Christmas if I am not too late to wish it to you, Perhaps we should have written a long letter yesterday for the mails seem very late this year. I guess the Bliazard in Saskatchewan and Manitoba delayed things quite a bit.

It is interesting to check the post marks but it looks as if we are only just getting letters from Concord mailed the 13th and 15th. Got Cousin Bert and Almas lovely card this morning posted the 15th and then one from the Chambers posted Dec. 13th. this afternoon. I guess some of the mail bags get buried underneath and so the letters mailed earlier get here later. That is probably why we haven't heard from you yet about Aunt Julie. Frances wrote on hers that they wouldn't know until Monday what was wrong, and her card was airmail and posted in Waltham and came yesterday afternoon. the 16th to the 19th. that was quick enough.

LA

To-day I haven't done any of the things I planned. Did wabh out all the rest of the dirty clothes, and then Pete tried rigging up some old sleigh bells that his mother had. really quite lovely ones, and he wanted them to ring when anyone opened the door had all sorts of screw eyes and string but the thing bound. It is hard for him to look up for long so I began tying knots and then after spending all the time I had planned to use to vacuum the front room, we got some brakets over town, (finding we had plenty here after all) and put them on the back of the door. Then a string through the door near the knocker for anyone to pull and they really sound very musical and nice.

Foolishly I saw a most attractive dress in a store window, a new store, and though it was a 16 sometimes I can wear that size, but had on just my low shoes etc. so said I would come back in the afternoon. It was a black dress and we have a wedding to go to after Christmas. When Harold came at noon to say that Davey was coming on the train which was late, (about 2.25 it was due) and could we take his mother and some warm clothes down as Davy is up from Los Angeles ~~and~~ a thin coat. So we went down with Barbara and the train never came until after 3. ~~the~~ Davy said it was -30 below in Butte Montana where he waited 3 hours and luckily it was much warmer feeling here. By the time I got cleaned up and to the dress shop they were busy with slow people in the fitting rooms and I hated not to stay and try it on if they had saved it for me. ^{was too small} so that took ages. and so the afternoon went. To the post office once more and now Pete is busily sorting out magazines to take upstairs. and I will do the ironing when the news is on.

We haven't any real plans this year for Christmas. It comes on Sunday and then Monday too is a holiday and Tuesdays the stores are closed just for good measure I guess.

We think we will have a goose as we usually do. It is the easiest really and we put apple in for stuffing and just set the oven. It is apt to smell up the house so we may cook it the night before and aren't sure who we will ask to share it with us.

Most likely we will do quite a bit of visiting around as usual. It is real Christmasy looking this year as we have lots of lovely soft snow, about a foot of it now. It has been coming down gently a good part of to-day. and about 4 inches last night.

We got a tree this afternoon. so easy as the game wardens bring in truck loads of them and stack them up in rows so all you have to do is go and pick as many out as you like. They do it to keep people from cutting their own and taking too many where they don't want them cut. They are free for all.

Don't know just when Mildred is to come but expect she is to be with you over Christmas and perhaps New Years too. Had a pretty card from Cousin Jane. Yesterday.

We had 3 big Elk around the house Sunday morning pawing in the snow to get at the grass, one wonders how that keeps them going seems to me we are neglecting a wonderful and simple food in dried grass.

Did I ever tell you that young Jimmie and Larri Simpson have another son born about 3 weeks ago. Everyone is so pleased.

Wed. 4.11. It was so nice of Edith to let us know about Aunt Julie. we are relieved to hear she isn't seriously ill - too bad she has to be in hospital Christmas.

Do hope you are feeling better & will have a lovely Christmas.

Lads of love from us both

Pete & Catharine.

RS. Wasn't that wonderful about Rusty?

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Dec. 22, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Just a hurried note to tell you that three letters came from you yesterday, the one about Aunt Julie first being ill and then one a day or two later how she was getting on. These came in the morning mail, then in the afternoon one from you mailed the 12th. the same day as the parcel, took 9 days, then this morning the parcel and one from Mildred. We were ^{glad} sure to see that one when it hove into sight!

Guess with the storms and big rush of mail it just piled up and they kept taking the letters and things on top and the others got buried beneath. Too bad Aunt Julie has to be in the hospital Christmas but am glad she is getting on O.K.

We are having real mild weather, 60 degrees warmer than Sunday, it is 30 above but in most of the province below zero we are just catching the warm air blowing in from the coast. Joke is it is bringing more snow and we had another 4 or 5 inches last night. Pete has been talking about getting exercise and now every time he steps out the door there is more snow to sweep. right now he is driving the Jeep with 4 wheel drive and low compound around the driveway to pack down what he can, easier than shoveling. and we don't want to get the man with the snow machine as he goes right to the ground and then one has great piles of snow.

Last night about 9 o'clock Pete looked out, it was snowing gently and the prettiest little deer right at the back door. We ged it but it was very timid.

Must do some dusting and maybe clean the silver, always a lot to do.

Loads of love,

Pete & Catharine

Banff, Alta.
Tues. Dec. 27, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

Every letter we have gotten lately people have said "guess you have plenty of snow." and we surely have. In fact it has been snowing every day for about a week, maybe longer and about all Pete has done between company is to pull snow off the roof and everytime we go out the door we have to shovel or sweep the path. It was a white Christmas alright! and it is still coming down but says it will clear to-night. At least it isn't water and we are not having terrible floods like California, but the people on the prairie are really having it very bad with high winds and cold as well as the drifting snow.

Two nice letters from you to-day, one written the 19th and the other Air Mail on the 22nd. Am glad that the treatments are helping Aunt Julie but they must take an awful lot out of her and be hard on her. You ~~let~~ wrote when she was first sick and then in the same letter added news the next day, but as it was not air mail it must have gotten all bogged down in the Christmas mail and it took over a week to reach us. That was when we got 3 letters from you all the same day and the one that arrived last was mailed first. Anyway it is alright now for the rush is over for another year.

Had better tell you a bit about our Christmas for we had quite a day. We were ready pretty well a few days ahead except for cleaning the silver which somehow always gets left 'til the last and the brass didn't get polished at all. Jonny was over Friday night and helped shine the silver which was a big help. It snowed and snowed and Saturday the snow had to be taken off the dormers and where it is too high to reach with our pole from the ground. Pete had been pulling it off after each fall previously but doesn't like to ~~hedge~~ hedge on the roof as his glasses steam up when he gets warm working and they are so thick he has a hard time.

We did a number of errands that morning and also took Dr Atkin home after he slipped and fell into a snow drift, quite a shock for an older man, so we gave him a ride home and then there were several people to see. It was mild though snowing gently, up to 28 above, and Pete decided to tackle the roof after lunch. I went over to see if one of the boys would help, Harold is the best worker but had just gone over town, Davy up from California stays inside tootling on a flute and didn't offer but Jonny said he would come. He usually avoids jobs like that but seemed anxious to try and Pete told him just what to do. He was timid of the roof at first but soon gained confidence, I was cooking the goose and the odors were wafting out through the electric blow fan and that sort of spurred Jonny on for he worked hard. They spent all afternoon until it was nearly dark cleaning out the valleys etc. Then we told Jon to go and clean up and ~~come~~ come back for goose with us about 7. We went for the last mail until to-day and by 7 the goose was cooked.

We had thought of several people to ask but with the snow to clean off the roof etc. we never did find them and decided to just have Jonny. Harold was over but didn't get invited as we thought it would mean more for just Jonny to be the one seeing he was so good to help. After we were washed up etc. we went up with the parcels for Bev and Cliff who now live in Mom's little house and in the end spent most of Christmas eve there. Bev's sister and brother-in-law had driven up with their two small children for Christmas and the mother and father live in the suite upstairs in the old house so they were having a nice family party and the children were awfully cute.

That was Christmas Eve. It had stopped snowing and was still with a beautiful bright moon and just lovely out, snow heavy on the branches of the trees a real Christmas Eve.

Christmas morning we were up about 6.30, for we were awake and wanted to hear the Commonwealth broadcast over the radio, it was scientific this year with several famous professors speaking on atom power and even Sir Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and then they included sounds from ~~SEVERAL~~ 12 thousand feet under the sea and also the sound made by stars 25 thousand light years away from us crashing to-gether, the sound only just now reaching us. and then ending with the Queen. we were washing the breakfast dishes by that time.

We had a nice quiet time to open our presents and thank you so much for all the little extra things that you put into the last box to come. those ~~two~~ wonderful oven mits are most useful, I had one but two are far more useful for lifting hot dishes in and out. The little pruning sheers are such a nice size and I love the Japanese bag you made me. Remember seeing the material and couldn't figure what one could use it for. Now it will be just right for knitting or sewing. The books are wonderful to have. The Photographic one most unusual. "The Family of Man." and I promise to read the Nature one, I use Petersons guides for birds and think it the best of all. and the Hans Anderson one looks very good. Pete has started looking at the one of the west, people love books like that you don't have to sit down and read but can pick up. and all the good candy too, Bev took some of the candy cigarettes for her little boy and the tiny Santa and little horse you tucked in. *→ Thanks for the book about the man who cut the selavella*

People were awfully good to us and we had several boxes of candy some home made, jars of preserves, a lovely tin gracefully shaped wood basket from Dorothy Whyte at the coast, some wooden salt and pepper mills, nice as they won't need so much cleaning. a food warmer or tiny electric trivet, most useful for tea or anything one wants to keep warm. Anne and Bert sent us maple syrup, and the kids the prettiest little tin dish with 3 bulbs. a metal of some sort and so it went. Pete gave me a beautiful Eskimo and Walsus group and I gave him something for his Leica. all in all we seemed to have a lot. *Several Christmas cakes as well.*

We had promised to go and see Mr Paris early Christmas morning as his son Cyril was away and it seems to mean a lot to him, so went there first. Georgie the daughter was having breakfast so I sat with her while Pete chatted with Mr Paris, then we called in at Barbaras and saw their things, they were really just up then about eleven, then home where we had barely sat down when Jim and Mrs

Simpson came in. They were here about an hour, Remember the lady who recently gave a large amount to the Museum school for scholarships, it was in the Boston Herald and then we found she had married a Mr Mathews who was the first manager of the Banff Springs ? Well we asked Jim if he had known them and it seems that Jim took her out on the trail. We will have to hear more another time.

They were just going when Nick Morant and Willée came and Nick's mother from Victoria. His father has just died and so it is a little hard for Christmas, they didn't want lunch but we got them to have some cold goose, for we were agriad if we didn't eat then we wouldn't get a chance. I made consomme (out of a tin) and we had a very informal lunch of just bread and butter and cold goose and tea. I forgot Mr Schtt had come down before we went out with some preserved peaches and apricots he had done himself so we had some of those and they were really good. We 5 were in the midst of lunch when Patsy MacKenzie came in so got a plate for her when we were eating goose. Then Jonny appeared when we were having desert so he was included in that, and then as we were finishing Harold came with Lona and Lynnne Becker so they had gingerale and Christmas cake. and were in the midst of that when Dr Riley appeared with some special Chinese delicacies including a huge pameolo or grapefruit from China. We had that next day.

It was all rather confusing and there seemed a lot of glasses and dishes etc. The Rileys wouldn't come in as they were looking for someone with a T.V.set as their daughter was to be singing in a chorus from Calgary, so we went out to speak to them and when we came in Harold, Lona and Lynnne had started the dishes and insisted on doing them all which I thought was pretty nice and thoughtful of them. Patgy had gone already and the Morants left too and then Barbara and Bev arrived as the kids were washing dishes and before they left the Prossers came. Dave, Peggy and their two little children. Dave is the one we bought the Jeep from. The others left and Lloyd Harmon came for a short time, but it was nearly 6 or maybe after by the time the Prossers had gone. It was not a noisy group but our heads were a little tired.

We had supper and then as Dave was putting in a call to the Campbells that evening they wanted us to go down there and speak too on the phone, so we did about 8 but we couldn't get through and so came home around ten. They had another couple call on them but it was a pleasant evening for us. Funny part was that we found later the Leachmans from Calgary had called Christmas night and so had Marguerite Orr so had we stayed home it would have been a very late evening for us as Marguerite is a long stayr as a rule.

Monday was Boxing Day and a holiday, However I did the washing and then we went to see Pete's Uncle Jack Campbell who is over 80 but real smart. We usually try to go on Christmas but as he goes to church twice it is hard to work in, then we went round by George Nobles, for he has been sick and were back just in time for lunch. Then as it was mild we had to get at the roof again, it was snowing quite hard and about 30 above. Luckily we got Jonny again and then Charlie Beil came to tell us about a mural he had just done and what a time they had getting it up, but after he went we all started after the snow. Jon went up onto the roof and shoveled off all the flat studio roof which was over a foot deep and forming ice on the eaves and puddles of water under the snow. I dug a path up to the house above, at least re-ded

the old one, and Pete directed Jonny and helped him. It took quite a while but got most of the snow off the back of the house. Everyone is having trouble this year and at this season hard to get anyone to help. It is the extreme cold, then a mild spell and more cold and so much snow.

After Pete had cleaned up we suddenly remembered we had promised to go and see Eldon sometime so went up there and had a nice call on them. The little boy had gotten some paints so Pete helped with those and we enjoyed it all. Back here for supper and then last evening Dr Leachman and his wife came again having missed us the night before. They have just moved to Calgary from Ottawa where he was one of the heads of the National Museum, a very fine sort of person but we had never met his wife before so it was a good chance and she was interested in everything. He spotted the Kreighofs right away, said the one of the woman was an unusual one. Charlie Beil also spotted them but didn't think they were real ones. either remarkable reproductions or copies until he looked closely. The Leachmans were here until after 11 and as it was snowing hard we took them back to the Mt. Royal.

To-day I ironed first thing, then Pete ^{after digging out all the paths} was worried about the store roofs so we went out about those, also to the post office and then Mr Scott made us quite a long call, an early lunch and then there was the roof to be done again as 8 or 10 more inches of snow had fallen. Pete shoveled all the paths this morning and we both pulled snow off the roof after lunch, have two piles so high we can hardly see out the kitchen windows.

Had promised to meet Grace Mather at the train and so told Georgie & aris we would take her down at the same time, were just going out at 3 and Marguerite Orr came, so took her with us, got the mail, picked up Georgie and to the station. met Grace and took her home, then pulled and pushed a policeman into the garage in the back lane and down to the station again to pick up Mary Lee Mather and two Vancouver girls going to the Summer school Chalets, having come for the skiing, We knew one and they couldn't get a taxi, so piled them all in, skis and all and Marguerite too and went on up there after first taking Marguerite home first. Everything is so buried in snow not many cars can get about and there are no side-walks, plowed. We helped carry their bags and by the time we had taken Mary Lee to the post office and then home and gotten back ourselves it was five or after.

So you wsee we have had quite a busy time, I started this earlier to-day but didn't finish it in time for the train, forgot to mail the first page as I intended to at the station.

Better wish you a Happy New Year and to all the others too. Do hope Mary Osborne's present arrived O.K. I put the box number on it and to go to you if not delivered to her so she may get it yet. Don't know why we couldn't remember her name except we haven't heard it more than once or twice.

Loads of love and a Happy New Year to you all.

The Richards who sent a card to Joan are the Chaydens's wife is one of the sons, used to be with us in 1914-18.