

Banff, Alberta.
New Years Day
Jan. 1, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

My first letter of the New Year goes to you. and first thing I want to say is how wonderful we think your Christmas present to the Newbrys is, (sure, a very bright idea for anyone over 90) Can just imagine what fun they will have planning it all and the anticipation will be a big part of it. When do they go and how etc. Will be anxious to hear all the details.

Won't answer all your letters now as I shall have to look them out and someone may come in. We either have a steady line of people or no one at all. and to-day is the latter, just as well for we were really tired last night when we went to bed. I think mostly from being on my feet from 4.30 on except for the time spent actually eating.

Yesterday, Saturday, we half expected the Harvies from Calgary down, did the usual week's cleaning and tidying up and decided to make the stuffing for the turkey and (we had been to the station to see if the Costigans were on the morning train at ten but they weren't) and Pete was developing a film when Don Harvie, his wife Mary, their two small children Janet and Ian and the mother Mrs Eric Harvie. Her husband is the one who really supports the Luxton Muzeum and the summer school and is to build a museum and Library in Calgary which Dr Keechman is head of. Don is quite young and we just discovered he was at the Harvard Business school in 1948.

Had a nice visit from them but they couldn't stay too long for this is the children's trip and they ate at 12.30, but they must have been here nearly an hour. It is nice to see them think more of the kids though they are only about 3 and 5, than of their own activities. The Harvies have been coming up to the Mt. Royal for over 20 years for the week between Christmas and New Years, as Mrs Harvie said to get away from too many parties in Calgary. She is an awfully nice person, first time we have met her.

They were greatly taken with the Kneighoffs as she has one. Her grandfather in Montreal knew Krieghoff and had 3 which he left to his 3 sons, or 2 sons and a daughter, and in turn one came to her. She had it cleaned not long ago, it is the same size as Cousin Harriets, and the man valued it at \$1500. Ours are a nice pair and in such good condition.

Mrs Harvie, when I said I came from Concord, asked if I knew the Laughlins, seems that they stayed with them in Ireland in their castle, said it was the most beautiful place, and they also knew Mary Lord and her father in the Barbados where they have been several winters. This year they are going to Japan to visit an old friend named Davis (I think) who is now the Canadian Ambassador there.

Pete was only in the dark room when they first came so he and Don disappeared upstairs, as Don wants a painting of Pete's sometime. Ian went with them. It was a nice visit all round.

As soon as they left we had a quick lunch and then without stopping to do dishes went for the turkey, gave Carol Beil a ride home with a load of groceries and stopped in to see Charlie and Olive a minute. Then for mail and back to get the turkey stuffed, washed the dishes first luckily, so things weren't too much of a mess when Eric Harvie appeared. I was just getting the turkey into the oven and we all sat down then and had a really nice talk with him. The first time he has been here alone and a chance to discuss things. He must have been here an hour and a half, was awfully interested in hearing about Grandpa and Japan and ended by borrowing Japan Day by Day. His friend is to show him all around but he is anxious to read up on Japan as much as possible. We also talked of the museum and how he hopes to preserve things before they are lost etc. and then he told us a long story about Archeological finds in Alberta. He met a lady in Denver connected with the museum there who has been studying how this continent was peopled etc. her husband too is an Archeologist or maybe it's anthropology. Anyway she was interested in coming up here last summer. said she had been corresponding with a man on a ranch near Cereal for years about his finds and didn't know if he was authentic or not but anxious to see what he had.

Eric Harvie I think invited her up and she went and saw the man, an Englishman, and seems for years he had been picking up all sorts of fossils and artifacts (?) and kept the data of the finds and to her surprise not in the usual amateur way, so it may be one of the greatest finds in recent years. They are coming next summer again. They wanted a young boy to help in digging and Eric Harvie heard of a quiet hard working lad who seemed a likely sort so got him the job. and these two scientists think so much of him that they have offered to take him to the states next year and put him through University.

It was all very interesting, then Eric left to go to the Simpsons and as he went asked Pete if he wouldn't do some more things for them which was nice. However Pete has a lot of other paintings to do first.

As soon as he left we decided to go to the Morants and see if they would like to eat turkey with us about 7, found Nick shoveling the roof off but they said they would love to if they could leave right after supper as he has work to do getting a lecture ready. So back we came to get dinner ready. They wanted to eat about 6.30 so we had an hour and a half. A truck drove in the yard about 5, George Maclean and Bill his son from Morley. Well we figured they would want tea so I started to get that ready but before it was made we discovered they wanted to get some things at the store, they hadn't been paid for some horses they had sold and so wanted to borrow some from us and then pay it back later. In the end Pete went over with them as the stores close at 5.30 and as it was they kept some open for them, Pete was tired before from all our visitors and sort of looking forward to the hour before dinner, but no luck. I got the turkey turned to brown while they were out not wanting to do it in front of them, and then had butter spread and cake and cookies for them with the tea. George was in a talkative mood, if only it hadn't been so late and New Years Eve we could have put on the tape recorder but perhaps another time he will repeat the stories. They were just

finishing tea when the Morants arrived, it seemed too bad not to have the Indians for dinner too but Pete knew we couldn't offer the Morants any sherry or anything like that and then it would have been quite a meal, but it might have been interesting. Also they had others to see. Mrs Morant was awfully interested in George and I tried to finish making gravy, mashing potatoes etc.

Luckily the turkey was done to a turn, for I had alternately hurried it up or slowed it down depending on changing plans and the comings and goings. They all had two helpings of everything and after mince pies I had bought over town with ice cream on top the Morants claimed they felt like boa constrictors and I must say I did too. They stayed a little while to hear a recording we couldn't find and then when they left Pete and I did the dishes, finishing about quarter of ten. Quite a day, we were mighty glad we hadn't promised to go ~~and~~ to the Grahams party as we did last year. and were glad to get to bed.

The day before we had Pearl Moore for a steak dinner at noon as she is leaving soon for the Barbados and though the evening was quiet and we were going to bed early, before ten. Edmee Moore came and stayed an hour so it was after 11 when we got to bed. a late evening for us. We went to the Painters for tea that day.

The weather has been wonderful all this last week, clear blue sky each day since Tuesday or Wednesday, we have taken a few pictures but it was a bit too cold being about 5 or 10 below most of the time. The night have been moonlit and quite wonderful.

We had a lovely letter from Aunt Juile herself so feel she must be getting stronger, she sent the nice one you wrote her on Christmas day. We really enjoyed Mildred's as she ~~des~~ tell about Christmas in Concord so well. I am wondering now if Rusty got our present in time and Russell too. We only got their present yesterday afternoon and it was posted the 9th, had evidently been in the Customs in Calgary over Christmas and we didn't get the notice until Friday. Whereas all your presents came in good time. Did Mary Osborne get her's for if not let me know and I will send another. You might just enquire at the postoffice, for I know I put the box number on and care of you I am sure. Should have sent it to you, but was afraid there were too many parcels for you at once.

Am so glad the bed jacket fit. looked all over that day in Calgary and they only had woolen ones or hand knit or just thin silk and short sleeves etc. Finally saw one like this in Holt Renfrews but the wrong size. They said a larger one was on order so I trusted to luck and sure enough in a few days yours came. The extra little bag was one I got first and then liked the one we went for your birthday better. but thought you could maybe use both.

Wasn't it fun speaking to Gale on the telephone, so nice she could be with the Carruthers for Christmas and I expect she went skiing with them. Do you know where to? How does she like Geneva? We haven't heard since we were in Concord except for a Christmas card which was just a few words.

Must write some Thank-you notes if I don't get too sleepy.

Loads of love

Just had 4 people this afternoon.
Catherine

Banff, Alberta .

Wed. Jan. 4, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Quite a winter we are having, It isn't cold right now but almost wish it were for the mild weather of 25 above lets the snow on the roofs melt underneath , then the water runs down and if it hits a cold spot on the eave it freezes and then backs up and under the shingles and ~~into~~ into the house. Everyone is having the same trouble. more or less and mostly more.

We thought we were doing pretty well for each fresh fall Pete goes out and pulls it off the roof, but he can't quite reach the top of the ridgepole so there is more up there and some of it is over 2 feet thick and the weight with the mild spell has melted it enough to run down and freeze below.

We were a bit discouraged last night, for we ~~heard~~ heard a drip, and here it was dropping from the ceiling in the living room in one corner. Just when you think you have caught it it runs along a board or log and drops somewhere else, so to be on the safe side we took all the pictures off that wall and then all the books out of the book case underneath. We took everything out of the linen cupboard upstairs to see if we could catch it there, and then the suitcases on the bottom shelf and put bath towels in, just in hopes. By then it was 9.30 and we discovered it was really dripping in the corner of the kitchen and down the wall (it runs right down over the logs just a drop at a time) and into the cupboard under the seats in the kitchen. where the magazines are in piles. Of course one was quite wet and all the pages stuck to-gether, I hung that over a coat hanger but have to pull the pages apart as the shiny print sticks. We fixed up a few dishpans and sauce pans to catch the drips and went to bed. Whenever each of us woke in the night we would come down and empty the pan. It was half full about 4 times,

This morning now that New Years is over we had it all planned to get organized and start painting. I have the big room to clean up of Christmas paper boxes etc. and the store room and then can think of landscapes. But we just decided we had to get at the roof first, so I helped Pete as much as I could. His trouble is getting hot and then his glasses steam up and he has to stop not being able to see. At noon we got hold of young Jimmy Simpson and he is here now and is to take all the snow left on the roof off. It is coming down in water cascades of snow by the windows. Sad part is it has been snowing hard all day and still piling up.

Haven't written you since New Years. It was a quiet day at the start, then Mr and Mrs Chadwick came around to tell us that Arthur Colebrook had died suddenly in Kelowna B.C. He used to work at Dave White & Sons for years and also looked after the supplies for this house when it was built. He had had serious heart trouble. The Chadwicks are a nice quiet couple and never been here before so we had them in. They were still here when Peter Haskins the English boy who was

an evacuee here during the war. He was making a polite call and didn't stay very long. is on his way back to University. Seems as if someone else came but can't remember now. We went to the station to send a wire to Mrs Colebrook and weren't gone very long, found Verne's car stuck in the snow but no Verne in the yard. So Pete left our Jeep out and a little later Verne and young Cliff with his tow truck appeared and they got him out. He was just coming to say a Happy New Year but was due out for supper ~~for~~ so didn't stop. Think we spent a nice quiet evening, I trying to write three letters of condolences and not getting one done properly, also have a lot of Xmas thank you notes to do.

Monday was ~~New Years Day~~ a holiday, did a few things and then went to order flowers and also find out if Pearl Moore was to leave that day or the next. She hadn't heard herself and we had to go back again that afternoon a couple of times. Seems the boat she is to sail on to the West Indies delayed it's sailing a couple of days and it wasn't until the last minute that they knew about train reservations. I also made a call on Dorothy Whiteman who's mother just died. Then in the Afternoon Pete Tasker, the game warden at Bow Lake came with his wife and little boy, and the first try he has made oil painting. Pete spent an afternoon showing him how to make a sketch and then gave him one to copy until he got the idea, He said he made 3 but the one he brought to show us was really good, of course it remains to be seen how he does on his own, but his color was fine.

While they were here a bride and groom arrived, married just last week. He studying medicine in Edmonton and she teaching in school. We thought it good of them to come round and see us, but it was to thank us for a check we sent, They had just gone when the Vallances came and made a nice visit, not very long really, then Verne arrived. The Vallances left and we could hear the spinning of wheels and sure enough Sid was stuck. He didn't seem to understand about not spinning his wheels and would just dig down further and further but in time we got him out. Then we were due at a "from 5 until 7" party at Eleanor Luxtons. We made it by 5.30 in time for the first part, a drink and then turned out they had a cold supper all laid out in the dining room. There were about ten of us. and we could all sit around the table after helping ourselves. such good things to eat. Cold ham and turkey, two kinds of salad. stuffed green pepper, sort of a ham stuffing and then sliced thin. awfully good and tiny little baking powder biscuits that Mrs Luxton made, just a tiny mouthful. and pickles etc. then coffee and Christmas cake and candy. We didn't leave until 9. Mrs Luxton thinks she is pretty mart for 83, so I never mentioned you. She never goes out all winter. She was about the first white child born in Alberta her father a missionary to the Indians in Morley, so is very interesting and quite a character.

So you see we were fairly busy over New years. Yesterday took the Christmas decorations down and the tree and such like and to-day as I was saying we are on the roof. Must go out now and see how it is coming. can hear Jimmy chopping ice in the valley. must be quite a lot. *Seems that our trouble was caused by leaves up high, it backed up the water.* Will be really answering your letter soon,

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, Jan. 8, 1955.

Dearest Mother,

This should be the last hurried letter about not much of anything, just to let you know we are thinking of you, enjoy hearing from you so much and as soon as we get caught up on Thank-you notes and get organized for painting I can then sit down one evening and answer questions and read over your nice letters to comment on.

The last week has been a funny one as every day we have had to shovel snow somewhere, mostly off the roof. Jimmy Simpson did come over and take the top part off that we couldn't reach with a scraper from below and Pete didn't dare go up on the roof far enough to do it himself on account of his glasses that steam up at such inopportune moments when it is cold. But the very day that Jimmy came it snowed and by morning we had another 8 inches, so once more out we went to pull it off as far up as we could reach. We found a man to do the old house but he was sick and didn't come one day and then he shoveled the roofs of the garage and Sam's shop. It was two feet of solid packed snow and he said that it had sunk in one roof which he noticed spring up after he got the snow off. He pushed it off the edges and then cut the rest in huge cakes and managed to skid them across the roof and drop them off, figured they weighed about 50 pounds each as he couldn't lift them. It was a relief to get that done. Then next morning when we were having breakfast and congratulating ourselves on having our roofs under control we heard a quiet drip and found the valley had backed up with ice or snow and it was dripping down the corner of the kitchen wall right beside us! We had to hunt for Jimmy who came after lunch and knocked the ice out and we put calcium chloride in which keeps the water running if it melts. a sort of salt they put on roads to draw the moisture. Trouble has been all this takes time. Now the snow is so deep it is a problem where to put it. To get light in the two kitchen windows we had to shovel the pile level with the sill and the snow off the garage is almost as high as the roof line. The paths when one shovels is awkward for one has to throw it higher than oneself. It has been a strange winter so far. Don't think the conditions have ever been quite like it.

Usually if we have snow in December it is so cold it hasn't much moisture in it, and if later in February, then the sun is strong enough to melt a little, but this time it will be below zero then warm up to nearly 30 and let the snow melt next the roof which then runs down and freezes on the eaves or in the valleys. We have been lucky compared to most people who didn't try to take the snow off until it began running down the inside walls of their houses. You can see icicles down many outside walls and know there is trouble inside too.

Thanks for telling us about Aunt Julie, do hope the treatment Monday will be the last and give her a chance to get her strength back. How would the nursing home be in Carlisle, the one Mr Loring was in, or still is in, you haven't mentioned if he died or not.

Another thing I was wondering, Isn't there a small suite just back of Aunt Julie's on the same floor but reached from below ? It just might be possible the person in there would be willing to change to some other place in town if they could find one and a door cut through into Aunt Julie's so she could have someone living next to her to more or less take care of things when needed. I can understand her place is too small to have someone all the time, but a person within earshot in their own rooms might be just right.

Jimmy Simpson has just come again, in case we decide to take the last small snowfall off.

Must go for the mail, but will try and write real soon a better letter, Must tidy up our studios and then we can get down to painting. that will have to come next on the program. Have had a few visitors but not many as most people are afraid to get stuck in the yard.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff,
Alberta.
Jan.11,1956

Dearest Mother,

First of all we would like very much to have the copy of Life on Christianity. We subscribe but somehow never got that particular copy, and when we realized we had missed it it was too late to buy one in the stores. So are tickled to pieces that you have a copy for us.

The books came to-day, we like the one of the Japanese prints best. and the one on the posters is similar to one we had years ago but not as many interesting ones in it. but we are glad to have it. The one on Augustus Johns drawings is a bit disappointing for usually his drawings are quite wonderful, I guess it all depends who picks them out and which ones they choose. They were all so marked down we figured it was worth taking a chance.

At last it is above 32, was up to 35 for a little while and the snow will settled, we haven't had it cold this year compared to some and very little wind. Some of the snow actually is hanging in festoons from some of the bare branches, does look funny. You wonder how it sticks to-gether.

Pete has gotten started painting at last. Monday I got the working end of the Studio dusted and tidied and then Mr Lonsdale was here in the afternoon with his sketches, first time since before Christmas. and that mean't tea later.

We had a funny time in the morning, went out about 11, early for us and Pete was at the camera shop where Bill Jamieson works, he is president of Rotary, While there Nellie MacKenzie telephoned to say that Dr MacKenzie couldn't look after the program as he had just been taken to the hospital with a slight heart attack. A little later on the way to the post office we thought perhaps we should just go up by the MacKenzies and see Nellie, as we passed the hospital we saw the ambulance as we thought backing out, it was caught just where it turned in on a snow bank, so thinking it must be the same one that had taken the doctor or some other patient Pete offered to help pull it out. We got the rope on and Pete was ready to pull when the Nudd boy said Dr Mackenzie was in the ambulance ! We were rather taken by surprise as we thought he was already there, so Pete went round to the front of the ambulance and backed up and then pulled it out of the drift and they got ~~the~~ to the back door O.K. Dr MacKenzie evidently knew it was us for as they carried him in on a stretcher he gave us a big wave. We are all rather concerned for he has been so wonderful as a doctor here and helped so many people, The real Country doctor type, as Pat says he takes a real interest and worries over the person whereas lots of doctors just treat treat a person as

another case. All summer they are called out night after night and have serious operations and such irregular hours and I guess he has just been going too hard. but it was funny we should have come along just then.

I have most of the storeroom cleaned up and the big room and now must finish the thank-you notes, another present from England came to-day, and then I can maybe concentrate on painting.

This isn't much of a letter but Linnie has just come in and she and Pete are talking while I finish this. a little hard to concentrate.

Last night Norman Knight came down about 8.30 and stayed until 11. which means a late night for us but they are used to it and sleep late in the mornings. We are asked to-night to go to the Prossers as Ralph Pilling is coming for the night. Dave has a new truck for him, he is the one who lives on the ranch. with the Campbells. As soon as I answer their letters will send them to you to read as they are so interesting about their Chrismas.

Must have been fun having Rusty's school team playing Middlesex. expect it was hockey.

Loads of love,

Catherine

P.S. Don't you ever talk about your head not working or your being stupid. I think it is a little quirk that must run in the family and I have inherited more than you have, Mailed this letter to you yesterday, only to have it back in our box to-day, plainly addressed to "Banff Alberta." So thought I might as well add a bit more.

Also in the box to-day were three letters, one from Frances written in New York, one from Anne and one from Cousin Alma, That was quite a coincidence too.

Am glad to hear they are choosing a comprehensive tour and will see a bit of all countries, otherwise they would maybe regret later having missed England, or France or Switzerland. Shall be so interested to see the tour they do take. and how nice they can go in April when it won't be so crowded.

Ralph Pilling from Cowley was up last night and we spent the evening at the Prossers, then he came over this morning to see the house, was greatly taken with it. Mr Scott came in too, on his way to the doctors in Calgary, so in the end went down with Ralph and later we found the train would be 8 hours late so lucky he came down just then.

Verne is here doing some work so as it is about time for a cup of tea or coffee will put this letter in an air mail envelope and wish you all the best and send our love, once more -

Catherine

Banff, Alta.
Sun. Jan. 15, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Sunday and presumably a good day to write letters, it is miserable out and a good day indoors but then one feels so lazy on a day like this! The east wind started in the night and it is snowing now, not very hard but there is snow in the air, night before last we had another 3 or 4 inches so had to scrap the roof off once more, it being easier to do when it first comes down and is light and one never knows how much will follow. We haven't had much trouble compared to other people and only that one time it dripped badly, the 2nd time was at breakfast and we soon fixed that. But some people must be having a dreadful time by the looks of the icicles, many right down the sides of the houses. It was fairly mild this last week and a nice change, but to-day is -8 and a cold wind. We did go out to give the Jeep a run which we try to do each week on Sunday when there are no trucks on the road, There is only one stretch near Banff where one can go fast enough to blow the stuff out of the engine that collects from driving so slowly about town, and then we have a look at the new road they are building along the lakes west of town, they are doing the blasting this winter and have to move the stone they blast off the steep rock shoulders.

It will soon be 2 and time to go for the mail so thought I might just answer a couple of your recent letters, a good way to put off those darn thank-you notes! I wrote Miss Cooke just before you sent the letter about her. She sent us a pound of chocolates which she really shouldn't do but is kind of her just the same. When I first read the letter~~s~~ was sure she must have died, she certainly has a strong constitution, but it is sad to think she must have suffered so with that cough.

We were interested to think of the gold pieces you found in Cousin Harriet's things, wonder if they are worth more than the \$5.00 to collectors? sometimes they are, but expect Mr Tilson will see about that. Can just imagine the stuff you had to look over, she probably used the odd bits to dress dolls and after she stopped feeling like dressing dolls etc, probably didn't feel like sorting the stuff.

Thanks for sending the letter and picture of of Steddy Buttrick's girl, she looks and sounds most attractive, would like to have met her. We do know the Bovey boy who is marrying Claire, he was the one showing pictures the night we showed the slides to the girls in Concord. he was out here one year, came to the house as Gale had asked him to, we liked him very much, but I can't think of his first name ~~either~~, what fun they will all have as I expect he will again be taking pictures at the Olympics and you said Gale would be going too.

We have so many little chic-a-dees to-day and one red headed woodpecker sat on a board about 5 minutes before he started to eat and then ate for a good ten without moving away. We have a large one too and another small one, should check on what they all are. We have 2 coconut shells filled with peanut butter and fat and one of the short scrapers we use for the roof. (a pole with a board across one end) we just stick in the snow bank and it makes a good place to put food. We have suet tied to a little spruce Christmas tree just stuck in the snow and the carcass of our turkey on the end of a pole, so there is quite a bit for them to pick at. The food lasts quite a while if the big Magpies don't get a chance to land near, they would eat it in a few gulps.

Haven't even found the bundle of unanswered letters and it is almost time to go for the mail. Pete is trying to figure out a card for Dr MacKenzie with all the animals gathered around his bedside looking like doctors with stethoscopes etc.

Do hope Aunt Julie doesn't have to have any more treatments and soon will be able to come out of the hospital, maybe she could get a practical nurse to stay with her in the apartment for a time, most people like best to be in their own home if possible.

Mail time so will once more bundle up and go out. We must be getting used to the cold for I have only worn a cap a few times this winter, did this morning but it didn't seem really necessary in the car.

Loads of love

Catharine

P.S. Am enclosing a clipping that Mrs Castle sent us from Honolulu, she is the one who comes to Lake Louise and has bought several of Pete's pictures, lives in Honolulu, but is very interested in introducing song birds to the islands, it takes a long time and lots of red tape for they have to be sure they will do no harm to other birds, crops etc. You might return the clipping after reading for she might like to send it to other friends, The Bartletts would be interested as they went to the Castles for dinner when in Hawaii.

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Jan. 18, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

At last I have finished all 26 "thank-you" notes and a number of others as well, still have more to write but not too many but must get the Income Tax information figured out which will take a little time, can't decide whether to clean and tidy desk before or after. We have my workroom all set up with easel etc. so soon I will be able to get down to painting. Pete works each day without too many interruptions.

Cliff has arrived from Prince Rupert, we can't quite figure out whether he is going back or what. There is no special work for him here and he would almost have to live with one of the boys so perhaps it is better if he has a job he can do, to go back to it. He came up from Calgary yesterday and was down to see us this morning. He is ~~Cliff's~~ older brother.

Pete's

Am always clipping out things to send you and then never think to enclose them. Have one about the weather. Calgary has had it much colder than we have, and this week it has been below zero most every day there and up in the 20s here, but to-day it got to 40 above in Calgary, the warmest since November 7th.

What rain you have had. Mildred wrote a nice letter saying they had a week of rain, what if it had been snow? Just a few degrees make a lot of difference.

Will send you an article about "Nutmeg boxes" that I just found in the British Country Life, thought it would be interesting to keep in with the box collection. It pertains I think to the little silver boxes we used to get in England and we thought were snuff boxes. I always wondered why the little grate.

Also in the collection as I remember there is a small round box with a tartan outside I believe and in it are 4 flat discs with cards on them similar to this one. Do you know what game it goes with? Thought it might be interesting to reply to the enclosed letter if you do know. Found there was one reply in a later issue that it might be whist.

Thanks for all clippings, Have you an idea when Clare and Martin Bovey are to be married and whether in England or Concord. and how about Steddy Buttrick?

Am sure I wrote that we would like very much to have the Christmas copy of Life you spoke of.

This isn't much of a letter but will send it any way. Mrs Painter came down yesterday and borrowed some books She likes the kind you send. Found our Edmee had been in the hospital in Calgary for nearly 2 weeks and we had heard nothing about it. sort of a check up. we don't see her much except on the main street so didn't miss her too much about town.

Love Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Sunday, Jan. 22, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Your nice letter yesterday, telling of Miss Cooke having died, poor old lady she must have been a wonderful person, I shouldn't say "Poor lady" for actually she had rather a fine life and knew lots of interesting people, was a neighbor of Dodge MacKnight and must have helped a lot of people in her day but it was rather hard being alone for her later years.

I will return the obituary which Russell may not have seen. It was not Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit but Thornton W. Burgess she inspired. He wrote books I remember well about all the animals. you should try and get some out of the library with "Aunt Sally" in them just for fun. Often in the newspapers they have a story of his each day with a little picture, of Peter Rabbit I guess.

Actually Miss Cooke wasn't a direct descendant of Captain Cook, for none of his children had descendants, no doubt it was the same family of Cook and I often wondered if there was a connection with Sandwich Islands and Sandwich Mass, as Capt. Cook was the one to name the Sandwich Islands. Strangely enough a friend in Banff named Doris Blow told me last year that her mother and Uncle were invited to the unveiling of a monument for Capt. Cook at Kona in Hawaii, and were told that they were the closest descendants to Capt. Cook known from the records in England. but then perhaps they didn't have track of the family Miss Cooke belonged to. and it was Doris who said none of his children had families to carry on.

It was really very touching that Miss Cooke should leave what money she had to Russ and me, I agree it should go to the man, who, as he writes in his letter, "I'm Miss Cooke's man Friday I suppose for the last 15-20 years," She has been very good and kind to me so I feel I ~~should~~ must do every thing I can for her well being." His name looks to be Clarence E. Cahoon.

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How nice that Aunt Julie is home, bet she feels happy to be in her own apartment, and how nice she has a practical nurse to help, seems a far better arrangement than Storow House.

At last you have snow, sounded very pretty, we have remained the same now for a couple of weeks, neither hot nor cold and the snow hasn't melted at all but just settled a bit *evaporated*.

What books have you that came from the Boston Book and Art Shop, that you haven't sent us yet? You spoke of one just characters. Was that "Hiroshige" by Uchida Minoru? and doesn't it have lots of illustrations? There should have been another book "Forty Illustrators and How they Work" by Ernest Watson and a book for the Morants on "Tyrolwan Interiors" if there are any missing just let me know so I can write the book shop and ask.

We were quite gay Friday, a rather busy day for we had a letter from Lila saying Cam was in hospital having collapsed at work. That is Pete's sister. Evidently over work and not eating enough of the right food to keep his brain fed. We never did think they ate sensible things. But we felt awfully sorry for Cam had just been promoted to a "C" Editor for the C.B.C. and was on T.V. and collected news for the broadcasts. He evidently has been very seriously ill, so that meant a letter. Then Nick Morant asking us to find a negative in his house to send him, which we couldn't find though he gave us all instructions. Then Nellie MacKenzie to borrow more books for Duncan MacKenzie who is still in hospital after the heart attack. and then at 6.30 we went to "an after 6 party" #2 Not exactly a cocktail party though that is what you have when you arrive, a drink of some sort, rye or sheerry. (one rarely has a cocktail in Canada) then when everyone gets a bit hungry a nice cold supper, turkey and salads and rolls, ending with coffee and cake. A simple kind of party for a person to do oneself and then they get Mrs Powell to come when it is being served and to wash up, she goes home and the party continues for as long as people want to stay. We stayed with the majority until 10.30 but some were there until 2 in the morning, just talking, and maybe they had something more to drink and eat. It was the bank manager and his wife who gave it and a nice crowd. the Vallances and Walter Phillips and Wakelyns, a gov't engineer, were the older ones and the Mrs C.M. Walker and then an equal number of younger ones but a congenial group. about 16 or 18 in all.

Lunch time so will send this along with the enclosed
Loads of love,

Catharine

Sanff, Alberta.

Sunday, Jan. 22, 1966

Dearest Mother,

Your nice letter yesterday, telling of Miss Cooke having died, poor old lady she must have been a wonderful person, I shouldn't say "Poor lady" for actually she had rather a fine life and knew lots of interesting people, was a neighbor of Dodge MacKnight and must have helped a lot of people in her day but it was rather hard being alone for her later years.

I will return the obituary which Russell may not have seen. It was not Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit but Thornton W. Burgess she inspired. He wrote books I remember well about all the animals, you should try and get some out of the library with Aunt Sally in them just for fun. Often in the newspapers they have a story of his each day with a little picture, of Peter Rabbit I guess.

Actually Miss Cooke wasn't a direct descendant of Captain Cook, for none of his children had descendants, no doubt it was the same family of Cook and I often wondered if there was a connection with Sandwich Islands and Sandwich Mass, as Capt. Cook was the one to name the Sandwich Islands. Strangely enough a friend in Banff named Doris Blow told me last year that her mother and Uncle were invited to the unveiling of a monument for Capt. Cook at Kona in Hawaii, and were told that they were the closest descendants to Capt. Cook known from the records in England, but then perhaps they didn't have track of the family Miss Cooke belonged to, and it was Doris who said none of his children had families to carry on.

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Banff, Alta.
Jan. 24, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

I had no sooner asked you about the book on Illustrators and how they work, than it came in the next mail. Also "I married the Klondike". Thanks so much and please thank Hanne for doing them up so well.

The long range forecast in our paper says "above normal" temperatures so hope they are right, it has been nice the last two weeks and lovely and sunny to-day. Verne was down yesterday afternoon and helped us cut some linoleum to go over the chest of drawers in the big bedroom where I expect to work so if I spill anything it won't matter. It was a funny day, snow squalls and so dark at times we couldn't paint. Lynn came too after school and later Cyril Paris who stayed until six, then Jonny was over in the evening but I got the ironing done and a couple of business letters done while he was here.

Have you seen the new book on Sargent, Don't know what it is called but I believe his life, should be interesting. If you wanted to go in to see the exhibition at the museum why not take Mrs and Mrs Sohler, come out before 3.30 and you won't get as much traffic, and get a wheel chair at the museum and see the exhibition in style. It would be fun as the people would look familiar.

Thanks for the picture of the Wasp nest, it is enormous, a good photograph. I notice on the back of one clipping a picture of the men on the Commission to preserve Old Beacon Hill. a good idea. We had a card from Lady Gardiner in London and she lives in Sheffield Terrace and spoke of how they put candles in the windows on Christmas Eve, an old custom, I don't know if just on that particular Terrace or whether in other parts of London, must write and find out.

You sent the review of the Sargent book. "John Singer Sargent" by Charles Merrill Mount. Have you read it?

Not much of a letter but thought you would want to know if the books arrived.

Loads of love,

Catharine

P.S. Just as I was going to mail this another book came. The Tyrolean Interiors. Thanks so much. & a nice long letter from you - the clipping about Mr. Tomita. Never knew Mrs T. was ~~what~~ not Japanese

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. Jan. 27, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Had hoped to write you to-day but instead worked on getting our Income Tax figures to-gether, was just finishing when Frank Kaquits, one of the younger Morley Indians who wants to learn to paint came to see us. He is a very quiet lad and speaks well having gone through grade 8. The older Indians asked if Pete could help him but in summer it is hard. Anyway after a cup of coffee and quite a long talk, we arranged that he should come up once a week on Thursday and Pete would help him. So it will be interesting to see how it comes out. He was still here when Charlie Beil came in ~~who~~ stayed until nearly six, always lots to talk to him about. He is making a big mural picture of cattle and horses, chuck wagons etc. He is the one who does the models of Indians and horses. So it was a full afternoon.

We are having a cold spell again, around zero but not severe cold, *this is the 80 day in Edmonton. It hasn't gotten down freeze up once.*
Sunday, Never had a chance to finish this yesterday in time for the mail so will add on now. It was -18° below yesterday and -20° below to-day, so we are having it fairly chilly for a change, it is clear but a fine frost in the air, almost like snow but so fine you can only see it when the sun is behind it, like a frozen fog. Makes it seem cold when it is like that. Have just been out to take the car for it's weekly run. We go so slow around town it gets sort of clogged and each week run it up to 45 on one good stretch of road and it sort of frees the motor. Also we check on how much they have done on the new Trans-Canada along the lakes to the west. They are still blasting but it should be a wonderful road when they finish. They work a night shift too. This summer is going to be sort of annoying there is so much road building going on in every direction and if it is dry the dust will be awful and if wet the mud is worse. The new road to Lake Louise will be ~~next~~ for the most part on the other side of the river so that won't interfere, except with a new road being built they aren't apt to do much to the old road. Then to go to B.C. over the Windermere they are to widen a 30 mile stretch at the other end. They are to build more road going by Field and the Jasper Highway will be unfinished and rough and dusty and the road east is also being built, in another 2 years it should be fine.

Haven't done a great deal that is exciting. Did go to the Ski Jumping for the school boys yesterday thinking we should show our interest, but in some ways should have stayed home and listened to the rest of Del Meistersinger on the opera. It was cold and we had to walk up through snow you dropped through the crust in sections. It wasn't a hard crust but just enough to let you through into a couple of feet of sugar snow. It was to start at 1.30 but the official who ran it didn't arrive until nearly two. It is so hard to get things well run. We are always having new

comers to Banff who take a keen interest in Skiing and really don't know much about it, only what they have read in the rule book, but they have taken exams in Judging and running tournaments etc. and feel they know all about it. ~~It's so~~ They object to the way the local people have always run things, saying you can't do this or can't do that because the Ski Alliance says it has to be this way etc. and the local skiers get so disgusted they say, "allright you run it then." so these new ones take over and make a terrible mess if it really. There was just one official ~~and~~ ^{supposedly} to be running it and he hadn't organized the thing at all and then arrived at the last minute. A few willing school teachers were helping who knew nothing about marking the jumping and it did seem too bad. The same sort of thing has happened with the races. The local skiers have run them for years but ~~any~~ ^{the} race comes along and the Calgary city skiers come along and want it all run their way though they only have ideas from what they have read so gradually the local ones drop out and lose interest.

When we came back Nellie MacKenzie came for more books for Duncan and brought the smallest girl with her, Sandy, and we had coffee and gingerale. Last night listened to the hockey game in Montreal and I sorted out kodachrome slides, Will keep me busy for a long time I think, for I haven't done them all for ages and have quite a few in rolls to be mounted as well.

It is dinner time now. 'his wasn't the letter I mean't to write at all. better luck next time.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

P.S. That's an interesting article on the Tonistas. I never realized his wife was an American. though you have often spoken of their coming out to Concord before the war. Some day you should ask if he could tell you about some of the things you have that may be museum pieces. ^{which are} stick a label on the bottom. We might not realize the rare pieces -

Banff, Alta.
Tues. Jan. 31, 1956/

Dearest Mother,

Another nice letter from you, sounds as if that busy morning didn't help in the end, to land you in bed, but am sure as Spring arrives you will start to feel better, we all slow up in winter like the animals. The Indians, especially the old ones always pick up after a good feed of meat, maybe that would help you. They can be on the verge of dying and then a lot of tough stew meat sent down and they are up for Indian days again. However I do hope you feel much better by now.

We had one of those days yesterday, a whole variety of people, we were trying to paint in the morning and had only one interruption. then Nellie was down for more books in the afternoon and Mr Lonsdale for his painting lesson, he always has a few pictures he has worked on for Pete to criticize, but left without stopping for tea, a church meeting to get ready for and a couple of calls to make. We had coffee and then out to see Eldon and a few errands at five Pete Tasker and his wife dropped in to borrow one of our battery radios, He is coming in for a Wardens course at the summer school next week and she will be alone up at the Bow Summit with the baby for 11 days, the road is open and Government men going through, she says she doesn't mind and if she comes down it means things freezing etc. They were here until nearly 5.30 then right after supper we went up to see Dr MacKenzie for a short time. the evenings are long and Nellie had driven to Calgary last night to see "MacBeth." I am glad I saw all the Shakespeare I care about in my school days. This was the company from Stratford Ont. supposed to be very good. The ironing to do when we got back so didn't write.

Today is just lovely, clear as a bell, -20 below again but above zero this afternoon. We painted this morning a bit and then over town, saw Bev and Eldon about some things, did the errands, were having an early lunch when three Indians came to see us. Old Mrs John Siman, who had never been before, she is 78 and with her husband knew Pete's father when he lived in the section house at Sawback, he would ferry ~~her~~ across the river with their furs etc. then take them or the things to Banff on the handcar. 1899 or 1900 I guess. nearly 65 years ago, she must have been a young bride in those days. Her granddaughter ~~who~~ spoke good English and a niece Clarabelle, ~~the others name was May~~. Very nice girls, the elder 25 and the younger 17, so they told us. We were just eating pie but they had had lunch so I made them tea and got out Christmas cake and cookies etc. They were very interested in the paintings and the one we have in the kitchen. Mrs Simeon even found herself in with much giggling. The Portrait of the Red Squaw was May's mother who has since died, so they all went in to look at it while I made tea, and as Pete said Old Mrs Simeon had a little sort of moaning song about it. I don't know how you would express

it, they don't say words but just make a sort of noise that is very expressive. They also looked at the photographs of the murals and got a real laugh out of some of the figures, especially the dancing, Mrs Simeon also said the old lady tending the fire in one was her, in the skin scraping one. When they had finished tea she carefully picked up the few cookies and two pieces of cake and put them in the paper napkin, then into the flour sack they always have with them for just such occasions. Perhaps it is a compliment to the food that they take what is left with them, she did it in such a nice way it didn't seem funny, probably an old custom. When drinking her tea and it was a little too hot she poured some in her saucer, placed the cup to the side and drank it from the saucer, which after all was the polite way at one time. We had a nice visit and now they have gone. A bit late to paint this afternoon so expect we will be going out soon and mail this.

Had a letter from the Wards to-day, they are in Pheonix, Arizona, in a small motel in the older part, a rose bush in full bloom outside their window which I imagine Cis would revel in. Oleander's hedges around the gardens, they have run into several Calgary people so Will no doubt enjoy themselves. Knowing people makes it more fun.

Lots of love mother and do hope you are feeling better.

Catharine

P.S. Russ said he had asked you to send the copy of Gales long letter which we are looking forward to reading. She must be having a wonderful time. and we are anxious to hear where she went skiing as we have been to quite a number of the various places. *We promise to return it.*

Forgot to answer question about needlepoint sept. for C. Harriet's
Chain. If you start it & get it all planned I'll finish it
if you don't. Would be so nice to have for the chain.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Feb. 2, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

I may get a letter answering some of yours written to-night. but first think you will be interested in what we did to-day.

Living in Did I tell you Frank Kaquits, one of the Hobema Indians from Morley who wants to be an artist was coming up for Pete to help, as he has been helping Mrs Lonsdale for a year now. We went to Norman Luxtons to see a small diorama Frank had made and Norman said they were going to try and get him into the summer school this year, so Pete told him that he had suggested he come up once a week to us, and Norman said, "You don't know Indians, he won't come."

Well, to-day was the day, we had sent him \$2.00 for railfare and expected him on the 10.30 train. So decided to meet it and then we would know if he came or not. He was to bring his paints in a suitcase, palette etc. So down we went, the train was even on time but no Indian. We thought maybe he got a ride up so carried on with what we had to do and were making an early lunch when he arrived. Had missed the train and hitchhiked up, so Pete gave him enough for lunch overtown and told him to be back at 1.15. Back he came right on the dot. Pete took him upstairs and then showed him how to draw a sketch in in charcoal, then wash it in with turps and then paint in oil. This took quite a while and I could hear them talking. at least Pete talking. He is very patient explaining everything and of course it is a little more difficult when a person can't speak a great deal of English and doesn't understand painting terms. Then he set Frank to doing the same subject, while Pete came down and cleaned his brushes and palette so he could start fresh. They worked until after 4 o'clock, it was pretty intensive, I made coffee just before five and then we took him to the station. It is going to be interesting to see how he progresses and if he comes up regularly. *He said he applied himself to the work very well.*

Had a nice letter from Mr Clarence Cahoon to-day with the clipping about Miss Cooke from the local paper and a nice picture of her, also one of the funeral and the Robb Flowers. It was kind of him to write and when I answer it will send it on to you. Think I will keep the clipping unless you haven't seen it. Expect he sent you one too. He also marked the flowers from Thornton Burgess the one who writes the Peter Rabbit stories, but he couldn't get to the funeral being in Tobago. (thats in the West Indies) for the winter I expect.

That was interesting about Olive Newbury meeting Lennox Lindsay, at least he was the one in Electricity etc. We both knew him. Pete when he was a boy in Banff and I of course in Concord. Think he was maybe older than Jean.

Glad Dr Bartlett is home and so must be on the mend. Did the Bartletts read "Wild America" that you sent us at Christmas? Am sure they would enjoy it having seen so many of the birds in Florida. Nice that Aunt Julie is out, she has had quite a seige.

The only time I think I met Mh Tomita was at the opening of the Sargent murals at the museum or some such occasion. I don't think I was ever in Concord when they came out, though you have written about them but I just assumed she was Japanese.

Thanks for looking up those boxes and especially the one with the four little discs and a card painting on each one. Were the cards the same as the ones in the clipping I sent? Might be rather interesting to write to the person and see if they ever found out what they are for. Could they be cribbage? or Euchre? You had the box ever since I can remember. *might mention the game in Haple's book.*

If you don't want the book. "Ann and the Indians," just send it back some time. I wrote Dorothy Whyte in Vancouver, don't know if you would remember meeting her, she used to work at the Banff Springs in the information desk and lately she has been the house mother or matron of the Rehabilitation Centre in Vancouver, where paralyzed people learn to do things. She was here the last two summers at the Summer school for a month. Anyway I knew she lived in Dawson, in fact was born there, so wrote her and asked if she had read the book "I Married the Klondike" the one I sent you Xmas. this is what she wrote back.

"I read Mrs Berton's story (condensed) in McLeans Magazine. She used to be Finlay's teacher" (Finlay was Dorothy's brother and Lily is her older sister) "I remember Mr. Berton before he married her - never liked him. Everyone thought him a queer duck. Her story is quite good. It would seem to me that it would only be of interest to people of the North or who had pioneered in other spots. Our first home had a mud roof, and when Mother and I were in England in 1905 Lil was left to keep house for father and the boys, the roof leaked, so she stayed in bed with an umbrella over her head and refused to get their meals until they tinned the roof (corrugated) My memories of the Yukon are happy ones, never had anything but a lot of good friends and happy times playing baseball at the corner with the boys, and season ticket at the rink in the winter, never had a drink of fresh milk and the eggs were pretty stale."

Have they decided what to do with Mr Cabots house? would make a good upstairs and downstairs suite but guess in the district maybe they can't do that.

Do send us if you can the itinerary of the Newburys trip we would love to know where they are going? *for a few days in each place.*

Did I tell you just to keep the two years of Arizona Highways if they made a mistake and sent it twice. It is sort of a subtle way of advertising anyway. We only paid for one. Hope you are getting this years allright.

You mentioned once that Mrs Edwin Brooks has moved to Monument St. Which house? and did Mr Brooks die?

nice letter from Mrs Wayman.

*Better call this a letter.
Loads of love Catharine.*

75. That is an awful picture of Bo. She looks so old.

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Feb. 5, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Wish you could be here to sit on our doorstep in the sun, it is such a lovely day and the mountains have a soft blue hazy look to the shadows, sort of a spring look. the birds all twittering about. The sun feels warm but it is barely thrity out so guess it won't melt very much, the snow is a little worn looking but everything still covered, We expect a terrific thaw *in 2 weeks* during the Carnival. any time like that we usually have too much snow, too little or all melting. However this is the biggest ski weekend of the winter when the teams of the various western colleges compete. Alberta, B.C. State of Wash. Montana and Idaho. (I get a little mixed) They had the long distance races yesterday and the Giant Slalom and to-day the downhill and slalom. It is just perfect for racers and spectators which is nice.

We have just been for the mail, sorry you aren't feeling up to scratch and in bed. Do hope it perks you up and that you feel better soon. One thing about x-rays, if they don't show anything wrong, the fact of knowing makes one feel better. Maybe some special diet would help, give you more strength. Actually I think you seem very active and on the whole as well as can be expected for a person your age. Am not giving you much sympathy am I? It is too bad you feel mean so much of the time but I have come to the conclusion lots of people ~~do that~~, one would never suspect *feel poorly a good part of the time.*

Rusty sent us the wonderful long letter from Gale, she has such an unusual way of expressing herself and we were interested in all the places she had been. We spent several weeks in Klosters though didn't know the hotel she spoke of, and we too have skied on the Parsenn. It would seem that the University part wasn't quite what she expected, they probably study in an entirely different manner than over here, Never did know just what she was taking in the way of subjects. She certainly is having all sorts of experiences and meeting many people but we thought she sound(d just a wee bit homesick, After you are away as long as she has been you do feel a yen for home. Don't know who I am to return it to, perhaps to Rusty in case he wants to read it again. *So well send it to Port Hope.*

In regards to the Indian boy painting. We have tried to get him to paint in the simple manner of the Navajos but the Indians here have no background of painting, *in* the south west they did sand painting and also made pictures on the walls of caves etc. but here they were too busy keeping alive I guess and also were nomadic and moved from place to place and didn't paint until recent drawings on teepees. The other day he told us he wanted to paint as Pete does, make things look as they are. We sent him the National Geographic with the colored reproductions of Indian Paintings and he told me he thought they must tell stories and that you would

have to know the story first to understand the picture. Anyway Pete is going to try and show him how to mix colors and put paint on and care for his brushes and then as he works away he will gradually develop his own style.

Does seem a shame that Aunt Mary Hoxrs house should be torn down, I always thought it was such a lovely living room but probably everything would have needed doing over, the lighting and heating as well as painting etc. and so few want great big houses now-a-days and if you wanted a big house you would want the fun of planning it yourself.

I thought that a wonderful idea to give the Hatherway place to the Audubon society, house and all. After reading "Wild America" (Am only as far as Mexico in it) it makes you realize how important a few Wild Life sanctuaries are. I thought the one near New Orleans the most interesting. Have the Bartletts read it yet? Am sure they would enjoy it.

Friday night we went up to ^{Walter (the artist)} the Phillips for supper. just us and the Vallances who were leaving the next day to drive to California. They live next to one another. We went early at 6 which suited us fine and were home before ten. It was a nice evening and a real dinner with roast beef and wonderful yorkshire pudding and little mince pies as well as desert. Mr Phillips has cataracts on both his eyes too but has painted pretty steadily before they get too bad. Just now is working on a book, when it is published, maybe next winter, will send you one, though it may be mostly technical.

Doris Vallance is the very nervous type and a meticulous housekeeper, never a spot of dust and everything done just right but a fine person too. Syd was saying that all week she was getting things washed up before they left so as to leave nothing soiled in the house, and he could hardly find anything to wear, if he left a shirt a minute it was washed up and he daren't touch it again. Mr Phillips said just what happened to him before they went on a trip.

The night before the Vallances thought they would just make one of those quick deserts, and so tried what is called a "Puddy Cake" they said the name should have warned them, but someone gave it to them to try. You put it in a pyrex dish, add a cup of water and set it in an oven of 450°, or something like that. After a certain time Doris opened the oven door and out flowed a great mass of foamy puddy cake, the dish had broken as well and such a sticky mess. Syd of course made a good story of it saying they practically had to take the stove apart to clean it up and the floor newly cleaned was equally messy. They haven't much use for Puddy cakes anymore.

Pete has been working on several pictures 16"x 20" lately, ones he had promised to various people, then Thursday he drew in a 25"x 30" from a sketch of Mt Assinaboine with a very stormy affect. Said it seemed easier for him to work on the larger ones, didn't feel so cramped, and Friday he worked a couple of hours in the morning and did the mountain and sky and after lunch started in again and did the foreground in another 2 hours, I think it came out awfully well. It is not often you can bat off a big picture like that and give it the feeling of a sketch. But if you can it works better, it has a nice loose quality, not worked over. He has been drawing in another one yesterday and to-day. Will look up some clippings for you.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Feb. 7, 1956/

Dearest Mother,

Not quite light enough to paint so will just write a bit to you. Not that there is much news.

X Yesterday is the day Mr Lonsdale the minister always comes with the pictures he has been working on during the week for Pete to help him with and sure enough turned up at 3 or a little later. He is doing remarkably well, the other day we saw one he had given Sid Vallance and it was haggling with pictures of Mr Phillips and other well known artists and looked very well. He keeps his things strong and simple and his color is quite good and when Pete points out something that could be improved he tries to do what Pete suggests and really corrects his mistakes. I think Pete is an awfully good teacher in that way. He never touches a persons picture just points out things and does it in a quiet way. But we often think how we used to get two or three minutes once or twice a week of individual instruction and Mr Lonsdale gets an hour or more.

Did you notice the editorial in this weeks Life on Art? Do read it if Mary still has it. It is on the Editorial page of the Feb 6th. copy, page 30. " Artists at Liberty " Looks like a swing away from the abstract kind of thing. and did I thank you for sending the Copy of Life with Christianity ? We were so glad to get it.

Mr Lonsdale was still having tea when Lynn and Christine arrived and we had quite a party for then Mary Lee appeared and later Lona Becker and Penny Warren, Mr Lonsdale left after a while but the kids stayed until nearly six. Are quite amusing in their remarks. Mary Lee at a difficult stage and a bit blase (can't spell it) a real teen ager. thinks she is an old maid at 17 as some of her friends are already engaged! Told us someones nephew was one of her heroes so we asked "why ? " and she said " because he is tall, has dark curly hair and blue eyes " She is really funny but think she will come out of it allright. At least she is skiing and racing, works in a cafe on weekends and during the week after school and reads good books so we think she is just trying to effect being grown-up.

She and Mr Lonsdale had something in common having gone down last week to Calgary to see the Stratford (Canadian) players. Mary Lee saw "MacBeth" and Mr Lonsdale George Bernard Shawas " St. Joan." Both were done in modern dress and no stage settings. Mr Lonsdale said all they had was a table and four stools and even for the throne they just put one stool on top of the table, one below, ~~for~~ One has to act well to do that sort of thing. Mary Lee missed the scenery but Mr Lonsdale said it was wonderful the way they did it. Some of the actors even taking 2 or 3 parts.

but they agreed that the lines in "St. Joan" were better suited to it than Shakespeare. Quite a few drove down, but am afraid I wouldn't drive 170 miles in an evening to see Shakespeare, in winter too.

Last night Mrs Simpson dropped in and we had a nice visit with her, she was full of enthusiasm, or else let off lots of steam, she is so deaf she does most of the talking but we enjoy her.

Sun is over the mountains so will write no more now.

Do hope you are feeling much better.

Catharine

Banff, Alta.

Thurs. Feb. 9, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

It is so good of Hanne to write and her letter posted Tuesday morning early came this noon. really quick. Guess it makes a good connection when it gets mailed before 10. This was stamped 10.30 A.M.

We are so glad you are really better for we were very concerned to have you feeling so miserable. As the days get nicer it will help too. To-day is just lovely here and as soon as the skating music starts I am going to walk over and see if Mary Simpson is skating with young David, the little grandson. He is just 3 and very independent so Mary says and doesn't want to be helped. He has red hair and a temper to go with it. Mary is working in Calgary and comes up her day off.

This is the day the Indian boy, Frank Kaquits, comes up from Morley to have Pete help him learn to paint. We wondered if he would come when 10.30 passed and no sign of him. Pete was sort of doing odd jobs and then Mary Simpson ran over for a little chat, and then about 11 he arrived. The train was late, Then the Ernie Parsons came with the keys to the Morants house and post office box as the Parsons are moving to Edmonton so we had a busy morning. Frank went over town for an hour and we got our lunch. Now Pete is upstairs explaining things as best he can. The boy seems very sincere, brought up a landscape he had done and it is quite good. Don't think the Indians here have the same feeling for design as the ones in the south do.

The Trans-Canada Highway is to go through the Indian Reserve so they are to start slashing the 15th and Frank will have work with the rest of the men. A good thing for the Indians, so he may not be up for a while.

Think I wrote that Rusty sent Gale's letter on for us to read and we sent it back to him, it of course came right after I asked you about it. It certainly was a fine letter and we enjoyed it.

This is an awfully stupid letter but will send it along and write again soon. I hear the skating music now and thought I might finish the roll in the camera. It really looks like spring out.

I won't send the clippings about Miss Cooke for they must be the same ones, it was nice of Mr Cahoon to write me I thought.

Loads of love Mother and we really hope you get your strength back soon so as not to miss too many of the bridge parties.

as always
Please thank Hanne so much
for her nice letters.
Pete & Catharine



Apple Blossoms

Buff.
Saturday

Dearest Mother.

No the apple blossoms aren't out here yet, but they will be pretty soon in Canad.

Expect you are feeling better & will be looking for a letter soon. Wrote this thinking there wouldn't be time for a real letter to-day. Have been lucky this winter. Nearly every Saturday some club to raise money has a bake sale in the corner of some store. Most convenient for us. Get pie, a home made cake date loaf, cookies etc. enough for a week. Pete claims the birds spot what I get & if it looks extra good appear on Sunday.

Have been cleaning out the desk. 2 drawers yet to do. Hope you are out & about again.
Lots of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Feb. 12, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Another nice note from Hanne to-day, she has been so good to write and it does help a lot for then we know everything is O.K. Glad to hear the doctor thinks you will be out and about soon, I guess you are a bit like your father and hate to be sick and laid up.

Not much to write about, we are having a touch of winter again, snowing a little to-day though it almost cleared off at noon and the sun came out but the forecast is for snow and cold weather.

Yesterday Pete Tasker dropped in with a film he wanted Pete to develop if convenient. He has been at the wardens school for ~~xxxxx~~ ten days, quite a way out from Banff, and Joan his young wife and little boy about 1½ years old are still up at Bow Lake. The road is plowed this winter as they are clearing for a wider road about ten miles north, but it was just as well it was a mild week and no storms, she has a telephone to the warden at Lake Louise, maybe a wireless but it is 30 miles from Lake Louise station and the only other people round are the men at the camp 15 or 20 miles in the other direction, don't suppose you would enjoy it.

You spoke of Arizona Highways and the lovely pictures and wondered why you never went there, it is only comparatively recently that it has become popular in winter, Don't you remember years ago people went to Tucson Arizona for T.B. and still do. Phoenix has grown rapidly the last few years and is quite a city. The Sam Wards are there now in a motel in the older part outside the city but near enough, and the George Nobels left this week by train, a long roundabout trip. The easiest way is to go to Winnipeg and Minneapolis and then to Arizona direct. but they couldn't get reservations that way so went to Vancouver, and to Seattle, San Francisco and then Los Angeles, (all changes), and then back to Arizona. There are no direct trains north and south in the states, only busses and planes. Actually the easiest trip is to fly to Honolulu, you can leave Calgary in the afternoon and be in Hawaii the next morning. Speaking of Arizona, I have a bit Grandpa wrote about a trip he made years ago and they camped out and went right thru the part where Phoenix is now.

Will be writing again soon and do hope you are really feeling better.

Loads of love,

Catharine.

P.S. Had a nice letter from Rusty, he was going to Toronto this weekend with the Hockey team for a game and a party. also said they were having "silly exams" each month, too much mental work not enough physical to suit him.

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Feb. 14, 1956

Dearest Mother,

It is Valentines Day and we are Baving a bit of winter again, was -30° in Calgary this morning but only -20° here so guess we are lucky. Must feel cold out as there is quite a wind. Actually we haven't had any really severe weather like 40° below but it has never gotten to 40° above either since the first week ~~we~~ were home last fall.

And how are you ? We hope feeling better each day though sometimes it takes time to get one's strength back. George Noble here had a severe cold or flu and perhaps it was a touch of phneumonia. That was before Christmas and he was so weak from being in bed and not feeling hungry that it was only a week or two ago that he began to come down to the store each day and now he has gone to Phoenix Arizona to sit in the sun. But he got pretty discouraged not feeling like doing anything but stay in bed or sit, but picked up well in the end. So perhaps you will start feeling real perky soon, we sure hope so.

Hanne's letters have been so nice to get but we really miss yours, doesn't seem natural without any from you in our mail. Have been getting postcards from Europe, our friends in Minnesota, the Kaldahls were in Switzerland, Austria and the Olympics, Dell Brewster and Mrs MacDougall in Spain and yesterday an artist friend in Holland, another in Spain and the Kenneth Forbes in Majorca. The Vallances are in Mexico and their son and daughter in Guatemala, Pearl Moore in Barbados and Fern Brewster in Honolulu as well as 6 others from here. People seem to be all over. Oh yes the Painters went to Philadelphia for 2 months, It is rather quiet and not too many interruptions.

Had such a nice letter from Cousin Alma, must write her soon. I do think their trip sounds just wonderful, Pete said he wished we could go along ~~he~~ as a valet to Cousin Bert and I Cousin Alma's maid. Actually a guided tour like that is the best way to make the most of one's time, I bet they save a whole week in not having to make their own arrangements, handle baggage and all the rest. They can be looking at things not keeping their eye on their luggage so to speak, You can spend a lot of time just finding out about bus trips and hotel rooms and standing at desks etc. and it will be fun too to be with congenial people to do things with. So many things are more fun if you are with people you know, sort of enthuse to-gether I guess.

Sounds a most comprehensive tour and covers a lot of places in a short time, one good angle is that they see both the cities and countryside in each country, they are near the sea and also in the high mountains, lots of variety. It really will be a wonderful trip.

We were up early this morning to take the milk in before it froze, comes at 7 so we were down by 7.30, now it is nearly nine and getting light enough to paint. Pete has a lot of pictures started. For several years now he has promised several people to do certain sketches larger size for them and is trying to get them done this winter for last year he spent all his time on the Indian ones and no time for landscapes. It always seems harder to do pictures other people want, much easier to do what you want or feel like doing.

Lots of love Mother and we do hope you are much better, not much we can do but write often.

Catharine .

P.S. Did you notice the houses in Arizona Highways by Frank Lloyd Wright, somehow they seem to go with the desert country, something like the queer shaped Cactus.

Bauff.
Feb 15, 1956.

Dear Mother,

Just a few lines today
as I have some letters to get off this
afternoon. Worked on a picture I painted
yesterday after drawing it in the day.
before. But the more I did the worse it
got. Most discouraging. Pete is much
better working over & over the same one.
Have you read this book? You sent us
"Land Below the Wind" about her life
in Borneo & I've read "Three Came Back"

think this new one "Bare Feet in
the Palace" would be most interesting
about Japan. Mrs Bordenau would
like the Philippine ^{part}. This review
is written by Marguerite Ruthford
who told me how fascinating the
book is.

Do hope you are feeling
"day-by-day better & better" like
Cora. remember the man who got
people to say that & "I did make
them feel better". Loads of love Catherine

Duff. Alta
Feb. 16 1956

Dearest Mother.

Hope you aren't too disappointed that these are only clippings but will try to write a letter to-morrow. Not much going on but cold weather, However it says warmer soon.

To hope you are really feeling better, there may be a letter to-day for trains were late & no mail this morning. Russ has written us twice of how you are. he was very concerned the first time. afraid he had alarmed us - so wrote again next day when he found you so much better & more cheerful.

Heaps of love

Catharine.

Banff, Alta.

Feb. 17, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

A few more clippings which I cut out ages ago and thought you might like to read. Nothing special.

I seem to start all letters with the weather, We saw a big sun dog yesterday in the sky and Pete said " Ah. a change in the weather ." and as it seemed cold we figured a nice mild spell at last, The weather man forecast a chinook and we were all set with a strong west wind. A bit disappointing to find it ten below this morning and it was still zero at noon and the weather man admitted he had made a mistake, the mild spell was up north and somehow went through a narrow channel in the rockies and didn't help anyone and we are in for more " Artic Air." You get all your cold " from Canada " but ours is always "artic air!" We also heard it was 10 above in Vancouver, very cold for there and in February and to-day they said it had stopped snowing in Victoria but was still coming down in Vancouver, no wonder there wasn't much mild air to blow our way. We are still hoping for an early spring the end of March unless it is one of those record winters with snow until May!

However it is quiet and few people drop in when it is real cold, they don't get out as much and then most of the people who kept coming last year to see how the Indian paintings were coming on are away this year. So we are getting a good chance to paint. Pete keeps on longer than I do for I find after a few hours standing my back gets tired, am still not doing very well, am even considering trying water colors!

Haven't heard from Hanne or you for quite a number of days so expect that you have written regular mail which takes 2 or 3 days longer, just hope you are really feeling better. It was good of Russ to write last Saturday for he thought you seemed better then but it does seem a long time since we had a letter from you yourself, almost the last one was that very busy morning when Cousin Alma, Eleanor Johnson the Miss Morrison and Mr Carter all came at once. and Miss Barrett for lunch, That was the 24th of January and you wondered why you felt tired, anyone would after that! and you wrote us 8 pages as well. *We did have other letters later. Last from you written Feb 2nd 1956*

Jonny has been over a couple of nights this week, I think he comes when there is no one at home, Barbara at a meeting perhaps, He has grown very tall and thin, will be 15 in March. As Harold says " Jon is the indoor type like Dvay." Both Bobby and Harold are very athletic and go in for skiing and swimming and all sorts of sports. Jonny reads a lot and knows about all sorts of things like all the latest cars, and he told us the other night that he follows the stock market, he imagines that he buys ten stocks or bonds and then keeps track of those and if he sells one what to buy and how much he makes, so far he said he has made \$500. but don't know how much he started with, must ask him. Interesting that he should do something like that for no one here invests much that I know of, he must just find it interesting, he likes chess too and wanted Pete to start playing so they could have long hours together figuring out

moves. Guess when he comes over in the evening and finds Pete just listening to the radio he thinks he hasn't much to keep him occupied, when it is a good way for Pete to rest his eyes after using them all day.

The laungry is just done so will hang that up and wash out the woolen socks and shirts, I try to paint in the morning when I am fresh and then as it gets better weather can do the other things in the afternoon. Have been sorting slides at night.

We are hoping for real good news from you soon

and loads of love from us ~~both~~ both.

Catharine .

7.5. Mr Lonsdale just came to tell us of an old friend very ill who just died so will make coffee .

Banff, Alberta,

Sun. Feb. 19, 1956

Dearest Mother,

It does seem good to have you writing us again, two letters came yesterday, the first one delayed by late trains I think, so now we know for sure you are really improving and as Jean used to write "soon will be back into our usual way."

What wonderful news about Frances, I don't wonder they are pleased and happy looking forward to June, do hope the Chicken pox didn't upset things at all, don't expect it really would. Cousin Alma said in her letter that they were going to Florida for a bit which will be nice. *Frances & Al that is.*

You sent so many letters. That was a nice one of Dolly Cabots, I should write her, well perhaps I shall find time. Just now we have three funerals in four days. Yesterday a young man 33 who was in the paratroops and at Camp Shilo in Manitoba, was found frozen to death on his way home on snowshoes, must have been a heart attack, he was very much overweight and but looked healthy enough when here for Christmas, Pete knew him better than I, a fine lad and we know his parents well. It was a military funeral with a large army truck drawing the gun carriage with the coffin draped in a beautiful flag, Actually there is a sort of temporary platform on top of the gun on which the coffin rests and I noticed when the pallbearers stood ready to take it off, it slid off very smoothly. It was a very impressive funeral, about 40 soldiers up from Calgary and a firing squad as well, they fire three times and then taps on the bugle, or whatever it is called, the part they play at such occasions and at armistice services. A lot of people there as he was a well liked lad and so are his parents and it was Saturday afternoon, rather cold standing in the snow but it was sunny which helped.

Then Old David Bearspaw the chief of the Stoneys died Friday night and the funeral is to-morrow in Morley so we will be going down to that. Says colder on the radio so hope it doesn't storm. He was the one who nearly died at Indian Days last summer. *just a year older than you.*

Then Mrs Dunsmore died Thursday night and will be buried on Tuesday, she was the mother of one of Pete's old friends and a person we have known a long time. She was 73 and had been married to Tom Dunsmore for 52 years, He is pretty broken up at present but his daughter flew up from California a week ago and she said yesterday she has planned to stay 2 or 3 weeks with him.

We felt so sorry to read about Gilbert Newbury and his troubles in Marggret Watkins letter, it does seem so sad when a large family splits up just because one wants to, especially

with four children, and yet it isn't a very good thing for kids if their parents don't get along to-gether and there are a lot of words between them .Am so glad that Margaret takes an interest for she must be helping so much.

I guess I had better call this a letter having a number to write to-day and Pete is busy making a picture frame and I bet has asked me to look at the measurements a dozen times already, Lucky I was writing to someone like you as other~~wise~~see my train of thought would have been sadly interrupted.

Don't feel you must write me every day, I will send a few lines as often as I can and after a while drop back to regulaaar mail, trouble is it takes 2 extra days to reach you so sometime will have to write two in one day so there won't be too many days in between!

Heaps of love and so glad you are on the mend.

Callie .

Banff, Alberta.

Mon. Feb. 20, 1956

Dearest Mother,

This has been quite a day to tell you about but first had better go back to yesterday and all that led up to it. For this was Old Chief David Beaspa's funeral.

Yesterday we were busy in the morning and everything got complicated when we went for the mail, I had written the Morants who's mail we are looking after and then found a letter from Nick, so held mine out of the slot until I read his. Was glancing hurriedly over it when George Barnes came up and with tears in his eye told me they had just heard that Dan McCowan had died that morning, they were coming round to tell us. George's wife Jen being Dan's only sister. her four brothers are all in Vancouver just now, one living there and the other three on holidays. They asked if we would let Nick know and as his letter asked us to find some papers for him in their house, to which we have a key, we knew we would be wiring him anyway. When I got back out to the car Pete had told Lona Becker she could come at 3 o'clock to try a speech she is making on the United Nations on our tape recorder to see how it sounds.

So at 3 Lona arrived, three of the girls in grade 11 are to make a ten minute speech each on certain subjects, the best of the three to go to Calgary to compete against other students also in the competition and the best in the Province gets a free trip to the United Nations in New York. We tried to help her and I think Pete did, then coffee and gingerale and we took her home about 4 PM. and went to search in the places Nick indicated the papers might be found, from Dark room to bureau drawers etc. but we couldn't find the papers, While I looked, I told Pete to read where the other places were but when he got to the one listed as the last hope he didn't realize there were others, and I never discovered until I was answering the letter in the evening that we had missed two possible places. We did feel foolish, for we sent a ~~wire~~ wire off to him as soon as we searched his house Sunday afternoon, and included the message about Dan. Got home and suddenly remembered that the Walter Phillips were great friends and we should let them know, at the same time returning books of theirs and also to send a message to Mrs McCowan. ~~xxxx~~

So Pete got the Jeep out once more and we did those two things by six o'clock. The Phillips' wouldn't have heard had we not gone up. Then during supper we began thinking of how it was the McCowans and ourselves who looked after John Murray Gibbons grave when he was buried there, (he started the Trail Riders & Hikers and was the one who made Dan a lecturer and also helped Pete by swapping pictures for transportation on the C.P.R. & other ways) The McCowans had found the top of a little pine and placed it along the back of the grave to hide a messy place behind and also got wild flowers etc. and we thought we should try and send some spruce &

pine to Molly McCowan for Dan, so once more got the Jeep out, only had to change some clothes too, and went to Jen Barnes house to see when she was going out and if she would take the box full. It was nice we went down for no one else had dropped in and we had a nice time reminiscing and she thought it a lovely idea and we told her we would take her to the train at ten ~~ten~~ this morning.

And so for to-day. We planned to get up at 7 A.M. but woke at 6.30 and next time at nearly 7.30 so had less time than we had hoped. I made a lunch to take with us while getting breakfast and Pete got the camera stuff to-gether (which we hadn't a chance to use) while I got the bed made etc. Also waded very gingerly through the deep snow to cut off the best branches I could find on our little blue spruce. Then we had Nick's house to search in the other two places we had missed the day before, hoping we wouldn't find the papers in a way, and we didn't. Thought while up there we should try and get some pine and was wondering how so as not to take any of their valuable branches that might be within reach and as we walked up their driveway right in the path was a tiny branch of cones, not there the afternoon before. Just right for something from their place, as if a squirrel had tipped it off on purpose.

They have a snow blower this year to clear the banks of snow and widen the road and we were much distressed by the trees they have stripped of needles by the force of the snow from the blower, but as we drove along the fish hatchery road on the chance we could find a low hanging bough, then right beside the road was a perfect branch that had been broken off and all the dead needles blown off I guess for it was very pretty and green looking and graceful. It just seemed as if everything was right at hand. It was about 9-30 by the time we finished there and picking up the food at the store to take to Mrs Beaspaw in Morley, then back here to pack and do up the flower box of green, and to the filling station for gas and then see Cliff about something and then to pick up Jenny and take her to the station. She thought a wire that had been telephoned the night before would be there and we even managed to get that for her before the messenger girl had started off with it on her rounds. Everything worked that way. The train was late in the end so we left her and came back to put on warmer clothes and start for Morley about 11.15

X The sun was quite bright and there wasn't much wind when we left, only 5 above but it gradually warmed up here to 20 but in Morley was colder and when the clouds came over in the afternoon and the wind began blowing from the northeast it was really chilly. We had a good drive down as there were only a few icy spots on the road and ate out ~~picnics~~ sandwiches with tea where we could look down on the church in the valley below, there was little activity, the odd car or horseback rider but nothing seemed to be happening. We went down and past the church and drove up the steep hill on the other side to the store on the main line of the C.P.R. There were a few horses and sleighs hitched to the fence but we saw no one we knew especially. We asked how far it was to Johnny Beaspaws, just a couple of miles and almost hopeless directions. The kind where you "come to a white house but you don't go in there" and "then there is a road on the right but you don't take that one." so off we started with a vague idea, crossed the track and right away three trails fanned out but with two boys coming along we asked them, one thought we should go one way the other, that to the right was better so we

went right. I took the milage, some roads ~~were~~ just across fields and ruts through the occasional drifts. We passed a couple of places off to the right but knew we were to swing east after a mile or more, which we did, then saw a road to a group of buildings which answered the discription and took that. It was packed hard but we didn't realize until later it was packed only by sleighs which are narrower than a car and so every once in a while we would slip off the side and into deep snow, how deep we couldn't tell but once we came so near getting stuck even in the Jeep we thought we better turn round. *It was like walking a tight rope -*

It would have been silly to go 45 miles to a funeral and get stuck in a tiny road across an open flat and not a house or ~~some~~ in sight. We found a part of the road blown free of snow and by Pete going forward and back no more than ~~anxi~~ a foot at a time we managed to turn around and retraced our route back to the tracks and by then thought it wiser to go right to the church, and park and watch.

A very large sleek horse drove up and the coffin was taken into the church, we were parked quite a way back so as to watch the whole thing and Indians arriving. A number of cars came down the hill from the main road, white men from Calgary and Norman Luxton from Banff but no one noticed us as we were further back. Of course the most interesting and colorful part were the sleighs. Most of them were built of slabs of wood to make a box on top of one set of bobs, though there were several regular sleighs of ~~xxxxxxx~~ a longer box on two sets of bobs which we used to call a "pung" in Concord. *One sleigh had high sides - we could see little heads sticking over the top -*

All the sledghs were hitched to a team of horses but the little ~~wones~~ seemed most practical, the man and his wife sitting on the seat at the front and perhaps an old woman or a couple of kids wrapped in shawls behind sheltered by the seat. The boxes must have been about 6 or 8 feet long and looked real short from a distance. When the squaws got out to run to the church and get warm they were so stiff from the cold they couldn't seem to bend their knees, they of course had on their best silk dresses and a short coat or shawl, lovely bright colors

The young bucks galloped up on their horses and I noticed they either road four abreast or all alone and later two and two. It was really quite a picture, the church not too interesting a building but rather quaint, a wooden building and next to the ministers house, in back the school and of course across the horizon to the west the mountains looking rather cold and blue, a hazy sun making the sky sort of yellow and hazy. One old lady walked down the hill and into the wind all the way, her knees pretty stiff but they are very independent.

After we saw quite a few enter the church, kids and babies and a few white people and before a whole lot of school children arrived we could see coming in the distance, we went into the church too, a cold blast of air going in with us as we opened the door. It wasn't too noticable perhaps as there didn't seem to be much heat inside except what we all generated and it was sure drafty on the feet. I had on woolen underwear, a woolen shirt and sweater and harris tweed coat with a lining and didn't get overheated, made it better when we went out later.

When we got inside the vestibule and then the church we found it already quite crowded and were relieved to find two empty chairs near the back in the aisle and sat there next to George Kaquits who we know. Didn't realize until later that the men were all on the right, the women on the left but as there were a few white women on the right too we figured it was allright for me to stay and one nice thing about the Indians, you can do as you like.

There was a nice natural feeling about the Indians gathered, they all seemed perfectly at home in the church, there were many kids and numerous papooses and even a dog which wandered up and down the aisle in the beginning. *There were too many people later on to know where the dog went.*

At the end of the church was a raised platform, behind the pulpit sat the choir, the men on the side facing the men and the women on the other side. two rows of them. the minister sat on one side of the pulpit and the clergyman who gave the address sat on the other side. There were a few sprays of flowers in front of the pulpit and a piano with a young white girl or woman to play the music for the hymns.

After we were seated Dan Wildman came to George and he went up to sing in the choir and other men and women were picked out here and there, George McLean. John Hunter, Jonas Ryder with his heavy braided white hair and several others we knew.

The church seemed packed, the school children had come in a group and took up a good 3 rows of seats and there were boys and men standing behind us. The minister and other man, (don't know who he was but a head churchman and very kindly.) came in, and soon the service began. One child had been crying quite a bit and when the minister offered the first prayer he could barely be heard over the child, How he spoke at all - don't know but no one seemed to mind or be upset, then the choir sang a hymn which quietened the crying baby somewhat and in the midst of that there was a little comotion outside and the ~~xxx~~ three chiefs of the bands came in, Jacob Tow-youngman and John Snow and the head councilors. Johnny Powderface and Tom Kquits, all in their dark blue uniforms and gold braid on the collar and cuffs and I think down the side of the trousers but we couldn't see that. It is what they wear to show their office. Poor Old Mrs Bears paw came in between Annie Two youngman and her daughter, and many others. There was a steady line of men and women, children and papooses, where they sat I don't know but the whole church was just jammed and many stood outside. The church was mean't to hold about 100 comfortably and there must have been 250 or 300 inside counting babies and kids sitting on knees.

The service was very nice and the Clergyman gave a very nice and simple address which was interpreted sentence by sentence by Dan Wildman which made it fairly long. There were numerous hymns and a solo by Johnny Powderface. One hymn the choir really enjoyed was "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" singing it with great feeling, some were sung in Cree and others in English. The whole service was simple and friendly and the Indians were all at ease and perfectly natural, gave one a good feeling. During one part the babies set up a fretful chorus a little crying here and there but it didn't seem to matter and on the whole they were very good, the one they couldn't stop was taken out soon after the service started.

After the service was over the people in the aisle had to go out before they could get the coffin out and then we all ~~trooped~~ trooped out together into the wind and cold, all along the ~~wire~~ fence on either side was a row of teams of horses with their little sleighs hitched to the posts or wire part, must have been 50 or more sleighs, the coffin was placed on the one with a flag along the side and such a rush for the rest of the Indians to get going, into their sleighs, bundled up and a whip to the horses and off they went at a good pace and up the steep hill which wound through the poplar groves and out of sight. They had to go as fast as they could to reach the cemetery 2 Or 3 miles distant before the cars got there. A good many Indians had cars packed full and some had trucks and such a scramble of cars, trucks and sleighs all going up the hill at the same time, snow blowing a bit and everyone well wrapped up. *plenty of dogs every where*

The Calgary Herald photographer was there and Joy Cardell Von Wagner who writes well for the paper, (used to stay at Barbara's when she wrote for the local paper here) ~~She spotted us~~ and asked who the various ones were but we wanted to get started for the cemetery too and so pointed out Norman Luxton just coming out of the church and said he would know everyone, ~~in the meantime~~ Frank Kaquits the boy who comes up for painting lessons, spotted us and asked if he could come with us in the Jeep and another Indian who's face we knew also came along. turned out he was Noah Goat. We got to the foot of the hill with a bunch of cars, many were having trouble making the hill as it was fairly slippery and dogs and horses with sleighs and all didn't help, when Frank wondered about his horse still tied to the fence, so we turned round and took him back for his horse and he rode to the store where we picked him up on our way to the cemetery, ~~by then~~ then we were nearly the last of the cars, just two or three came after us but we had the fun of seeing the long line of sleighs taking a snowy shortcut with the breath of the horses in clouds of steam and all the color of the women huddled in their striped blankets. It was quite a sight really. Our road wound along taking advantage of the bare hillsides and where the drifts weren't too deep and we could see then they must use mostly sleighs and have well packed roads for them.

The rest of the cars were up on a bare hillside when we got there and the teams of horses lined along the fence, one ~~little~~ opening where they could get ~~through the fence~~ through to the tiny cemetery at the foot of a little hill with aspen trees, ~~up the hill~~ There was no road and the snow quite deep where one went through the fence, they had evidently found a car couldn't get through and just as we came along they spotted our Jeep. Jacob Two Youngman the head chief ~~now~~ came and asked if we could take old Mrs Bearspaw with us as she wanted to go over to the graveside where all the Indians were gathering, the men standing on one side, the women on the other. So of course we felt honored and they helped the poor old lady in, she is so stiff and you know what a high step it is. Annie Beaver came too and a daughter and of course the Jeep had no trouble at all getting right through and across the little field. Mrs Bearspaw sat between Annie and I in the back seat and she grabbed my hand and it felt real warm which I was glad of, she didn't say anything and doesn't speak English but one knew how she felt. *She & David must have been married over 60 years -*

There was another struggle to get her out and the two women helped her across the grass where they disappeared among the bright shawls. We stayed by the Jeep where you could watch the whole thing. It was a tightly packed circle of Indians and the men stood out as they were on higher ground. The minister said it was no sign of disrespect to keep ones hat on, which was a help though most of the Indians took theirs off during the short service. Then Back came Mrs Bearspaw and once more we got her into the car and across to Jacobs more comfortable car on the other side. Johnny the son was ~~there~~ glad to have us there we could see, and I couldn't help notice that though he wore a woolen cap with ear flaps and a red woolen coat he had a light colored shirt on underneath and the most wonderful gray silk tie with sort of brocaded flowers on it, must have been very special, more like a wedding tie than a funeral one.

The Indians were all so glad to see us and everyone we knew who spotted us came up and shook hands even some of the young girls. They seemed glad we had come for they know we don't go far from Banff in winter.

Mary McLean and one daughter came back with us as they had gone over in an open truck and were cold and also Frank and Noah Coat. We left Frank at the store and found George McLean just getting ready to start back in his tiny box sleigh, they hadn't gone to the cemetery and as he said had a three mile trip into the wind to make home. He was bundling his wife into a blanket and his white team of horses were all ready to get going. He seemed so glad to see us and we luckily had some cigarets for them (we had taken a box of food for Mrs Bearspaw, tea and jam, cake etc.) When we spoke to George he took my hand and said something like " My dear, dear, daughter." it was quite touching. They are coming up to visit us when it gets warmer.

We took Mary to her little road and then Noah across the valley. It wasn't until we were alone with him that he asked Pete's name, I think at first he thought ~~he~~ was Jackie who he knows in the store and no doubt the family look as much alike to him as ~~they~~ ^{Indians} will do to us. and then we had to ask his name too. When we went down the sun had seemed bright and warm but the sky was leaden by the time we started home and it seemed much colder. We got back before six but it was quite a day.

Last night right after supper I started this letter while the impression was fresh and Pete made some little sketches in pencil, ~~to~~ just notes to remember certain things, but there was no real chance to take pictures. About 8.30 Mary Lee Mather and Gloria Riva arrived. Mary Lee to try her speech on the recorder and as they are to deliver them to-morrow and Lona is coming this afternoon to try hers again we didn't have the heart to say we were tired. So that took over an hour but they were so appreciative and it did help a lot evidently, for the 2nd. time she did it was so much better. We had gingerale and cake as well and they said they knew we had had a long day and also usually went to bed early so left before ten. But all in all it was quite a day and this morning we felt a little tired.

It is snowing hard to-day, about an inch already, we certainly were lucky for it would have been quite a problem getting to the cemetery on a day like this in Morley and it is zero too. ^{the road}
damn, we wouldn't have known where the icy parts were with this snow on top.

Goodness this is quite a letter, hope it doesn't wear you out. but you don't have to read it all at once.

Found a nice letter from you and one from Russ, Imagine you will feel better some days than others but on the whole will have more better feeling ones than bad ones. Nice you can have people come and see you and Russ said you were having an open winter.

How exciting that Russ and Kitty are to visit Bo and Jack Amory in Phoenix, Arizona, it should be lovely there and sunny and they can tell you if it is all it is cracked up to be in the Arizona Highways.

We have another funeral this afternoon and then Lona to try her speach after school, just as well we don't know the 3rd, gill but we figure if we can help the girls in something like this it is well worthwhile.

Better not write more, Loads of love

Catherine

Goldfinch



3auff,
Tuesday.

Dearest Mother

Just
a note to tell you
how awfully sorry
we are to hear what
a miserable time
you have had with
x-rays & after

effects. Just hope
you are much better
now & well over
that Part.

It was good
of Hanne to write
us such a nice
letter. We will
be anxious to hear

if the x-rays show anything, It will be a relief if they show nothing & worth having gone through.

Rusty sent us Gale's letter & we returned it to him. Russ had said you would be sending it, guess he got mixed. It was a really wonderful letter & we were so glad to have a chance to read it. I expect you are all anxious to have Gale home before summer to hear about Europe & her reactions first hand. The trip though Italy & Spain should be wonderful.

The Sargent book came today. So glad to have it. It's well done. Thanks!

Will write again soon & do hope you are feeling better.

Loads of love from us both
Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. Feb. 23, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

What a week, thought after that very long letter I would let a day go by without one and now I guess several days have passed. For most of February we were rather quiet and few people dropping in and then everyone seemed to come at once. Tuesday we had 11 or 12 between 3 PM and 9 PM, it both felt like Christmas and looked like it.

We were so happy when your last letter came saying that you had started to live again and had been down stairs each day for dinner. Felt like saying "Bully for you." as Father and Uncle Paul Bagley used to express things. You ~~sure~~ have had a horrid and miserable time and hope from now on everything improves so you can be out and about.

Better give you a rough outline of our activities. Monday was the day we went to Morley and did so much before we left.

I was writing you that evening when about 8.30 Mary Lee and her friend Gloria Riva came to see if she could practise her speech for the competition on our recorder, to see how she sounded. So they were here until quarter to ten, but it helped a lot for she was very jerky at first.

Tuesday it started snowing and snowed all that day and most of the night for we had a foot by morning. I finished the letter to you and we went out to shop and mail etc. Then Mrs Dunsmore's funeral in the afternoon, we don't go to the church just the cemetery to pay our respects. Quite a few do that. It was very quiet and the snow came down so peacefully. We were a little tired from the day before but no sooner had returned than a Mr MacDonald, a real old time rail road man came to ask Pete about the cataract operation. I had seen his wife who said he was quite worried and wanted to ask Pete some questions. Wexmd

We had never really met him before and he really did enjoy his talk with Pete and told us about the days he was up at the Great Divide and had charge of the snow clearing from Lake Louise to Field for the C.P.R. It was all cleared by hand in those days at 25¢ an hour and they worked 10 hours a day.

While he was still here, Mrs Warren, the one who knows Mrs Baldwin in Concord, dropped in. Her husband has been in hospital and she seemed a little forlorn so I made tea and we talked here until Pete and Mr MacDonald joined us then she had to go and pick up Penny at school so left at four. But very shortly Linnie and Bryan the young brother came in and they were really cute, ate all the rest of the cake and cookies. Before they had left Peter Tasker came to ask Pete some questions about photography, he was off to Bow Summit with some furniture in a truck

and Mr Lonsdale came to return a book. We took Linnie and Bryan home while mailing a letter at the station.

Had barely finished supper when Harold arrived with a film to show us and Jonny too with dog, then Lona (who we had rather expected after school to try her speech again) with Al Maberly the boy in the competition. They both wanted to hear their talks on the recorder. Then Bev had come looking for Jon to baby sit. ~~xxxx~~ she was here I guess before Lona and Al. was talking to Pete. They left and we told Harold he would have to go too, so the rest of the evening was spent recording and playing back ten minute speeches *not Lona then Al - a nice boy we hadn't known before.*

Just the three 16 year olds were trying the competition. MaryLee's had been on the Roman Empire, Lona's on What Canada was doing for world peace and Al's on the Egyptian and Isreal trouble. At first they were all very secret about it and not telling each other what subject they had chosen or anything. Then the afternoon before the competition they had all gotten to-gether and for 3 hours practised speaking in the Auditorium and helped each other all they could, which I thought pretty good for teen agers. The speeches were all well written but Al did have his in hand better than either of the girls and in the end he won. They were still talking when Don, Lona's father, came for her so he had to hear both, another 20 minutes and I got out the ginerale and cake and we had quite an evening. Quite a day in fact.

Wednesday I got some other letters written , one a business one and Pete made a frame, we also had the foot of snow to pull off the roof eaves and Pete shoveled the paths, from the little path to the ~~shop~~ shed you can just see the head of a person on the path to the driveway, and the snow is solid and high in between where we have been shoveling and piling it up all winter.

That afternoon Jim Simpson dropped in while we were still working on the roof and before we had gone Cyril Paris came, so we had callers all afternoon. and Jonny was back over that evening. We hate to discourage him for we feel he needs to talk to a person like Pete as he rarely sees his father except in the store. Only trouble I find he may read something but reads it out loud, bits and pieces so you can't concentrate yourself. I am a poor one to criticise that habit for I do it myself!

Yesterday was the first day of the carnival and rather mild, up to 20 above and no wind which was nice for watching the parade at 1.30. It was a good one lots of floats and kids and color and then they open the Carnival and introduce the queen candidates etc. a little fancy skating and speeches and a band from Calgary to play. We didn't go to the Jalopy races. No use trying to paint this week, we had one friend over yesterday morning and another to-day. There is a hockey game to-night.

Two nice letters from you to-day, Sundays and Mondays, we have been getting them regualrly ever since you first started to write and before that the nice Air Mails from Hanne. It was in between the two where the wait came, but we knew you must be O.K. or we would have heard.

Loads of love from us both.

Catherine . A few odd clippings -

Sunday -
Feb. 26, 1956

Dearest Mother, just to let you know
we will be visiting soon. Have been
busy with the Carnival this week. The
Skating Show yesterday. the Rileys for
tea. John Powder for high tea
& a hockey game after supper.

Had 11 deer in the
yard at one time today. in fact
they have been in groups of 5 &
6 all day round the house and

almost as many photographers
coming from all directions too
even to 3 Danish Nat. flying
students. Has been a lovely day
the Carnival over & we hope to get
back to normal.

Glad from your last letter.
came today that you are feeling
better - Guess it will be up &
down.

Loads of love

MADE BY
Austin & Marshall
TORONTO, CANADA

Pete & Catharine.

Banff, Alberta

Mon. Feb. 27, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

A nice letter from you this noon written Thursday, the day Russ and Kitty left and the little dogs arrived at your house, they will be good company for you. I wonder if Russ and Kitty will go to any of the places written about in Arizona Highways, you really are the one who should have gone being up on the subject. I must look up the little story Granpa wrote about it. Am sure it was a camping trip through the valley Phoenix is now in. You might like to send it to the Arizona Highways to publish sometime.

Well the Carnival is over, kept us a little busier than we expected. The Parade was Thursday afternoon, rather a nice day and some sun. It had snowed all Tuesday and the fresh foot of snow made the town look really pretty, Good floats and amusing ones which everyone enjoyed. Then the opening of the Carnival down on the river where they make a throw out of ice. Start before Christmas and keep spraying water over a few trees they stick in the ice and it keeps freezing until they have a high ice pinacle, then carve a throne and this time steps leading up to it. There were quite amusing speeches by the Superintendent and the Mayor of Calgary etc. Colorful because of the bright winter costumes. but rather chilly as it wasn't very warm. Eldon

Friday ~~Thursday~~ I can't remember what we did much, ~~someone~~ came in the morning and I think Pete cleaned out the valleys in the roof so they would drain properly, and I guess I wrote letters etc. We also saw Cliff and Bev about the situation at the store and wondering what Jackie is going to do, whether he will sell out the business or what. Guess I am not too bright not to be able to remember what went on. Anyway I know we were busy. That night we got all bundled up and went to the hockey game, it was about zero and pretty cold ~~butxaxixelyxnight~~ snowing a bit from the west and then the wind went around and it seemed much colder. There were very few at the game and we were disgusted that more didn't show up. The Carnival advertises all the sports events but the people aren't really interested and like the masquerades and suchlike at night. and bingo, so I don't know why they bother with the hockey and skiing. It was a wonderful game the first period until ~~until~~ the Banff Goalie got hit in the eye and had to go off and as they hadn't a spare goalie the game had to be called off, so the few there went home.

Saturday was a miserable day, blowing and snowing from the east and about zero and not warmer than five above. We did all our chores in the morning and errands and then both went to the skating frolic though I didn't try taking pictures. It was very good and went off quickly, I guess the kids were so cold they went faster or something. The youngest was not quite 3 and so cute. The little ones are so amusing and so serious thinking that they are doing turns and spins like the older ones. The Dr Rileys were there so they came over later for tea and we had a nice visit with them. After they left I had a letter to post so we went to the station and found Johnny Powder face waiting for

the train which was an hour late, so brought him back and gave him bacon and eggs and tea and fruit and cake and took him back again. He is one of the nice Indians and sang the solo at David's funeral. We didn't really know him until last summer. He was very appreciative.

We hustled home and had time for supper and to listen to the N.H.L. Game on the radio and then bundled up again and went to another hockey game at the rink. This time young Billy MacKenzie's age. they played Canmore, but there were fewer than before and it was just too bad. I guess people won't sit out when it is cold to watch a game they are spoilt. and someone said they put on a swimming show at the last minute at the Cave and Basin so most of them must have gone there. We came home before the end. figuring we had done our share *by showing up*.

Sunday was a perfect day, but cold though clear. We went out in the morning to see if one could get good pictures at the Cave and Basin that afternoon, decided not to try and glad we didn't as there was such a traffic jam it took some people two hours to get the mile back to town and they missed the crowning of the new queen. However we had an amusing time. Found three boys stuck, so got out the chain pulled them a ~~few~~ short way until their engine was going, they wanted to pay us but of course we wouldn't take anything. Then drove down the main street, a traffic jam in the 2nd block, a car trying to get pushed to start. So again we got out the chain but this time had to go down the main street a quarter of a mile and back on Beaver before the car started. The 3 boys got out, wanted to pay and were so grateful. (It costs about \$2.50 for a tow truck) We had unhitched from them and gone round the corner and before they passed us found another car also with 3 nice boys in it needing a pull. So once again we hitched on and pulled them down the main street and back on Beaver and they got started in about the same place as the other. By then we decided we had better get home quick. Lots of people had trouble starting yesterday and we saw five pairs of cars being pushed along the river road earlier.

Yesterday for some reason we had lots of deer in the yard. 7 young bucks in one group and five females in another and though most of the time they stayed in separate groups, one time they were all together right by our garage. They stayed around all day and we had people coming in to take pictures morning and afternoon, some we gave bread to feed the deer. Three were Danish flyers who come to Canada with Nato to train. Very nice young men,

I went to the final ceremony where the new queen was crowned and such a lot of people. There was a pageant with little kids dressed up as snowflakes and Jack Frost etc. Very sparkly costumes in the sun but the thing wasn't well organized and they foolishly crowned the new queen before the pageant, a lot of people were getting cold and the photographers had to get their pictures first and soon people began leaving in a steady stream and no one running it noticed so they didn't say there was more to come. We were on the bridge and could see it all. But so few people running things think of all the angles.

We also saw Rita Crick who has just come back from a cataract operation and then Marjorie Crosby came in before supper and asked if we would like to see her father's slides last evening, of Fiji and Samoa. We weren't anxious to go out but wanted to see the slides. After supper Eldon Walls came for a picture Pete has done for them and

He stayed until after eight and we just had time to get ready and over next door to the Crosbys. just two others were there, ~~Mr~~^{Mrs} ~~the~~ Wisharts, Marjorie and her father and mother. Mr Crosby had taken the color slides on a trip last year and we really enjoyed seeing them, gave a good idea of the islands and native villages. but was quite an evening. after midnight when we got home.

And now to-day it was below zero again this morning but has warmed up to over twenty above. We started on new pictures this morning and now this afternoon Jimmie Simpson is cleaning all the snow off the roof that has gathered since the last time, then we hope we won't have to think if whether it is freezing in the valleys or not. Mr Lonsdale is due soon, we have had John Snow an Indian and have to go and see Rita later and hear about her time in Edmonton in the hospital.

It was awfully nice to hear about Mrs Loring going to the neices daughter's wedding and Mary Chamberlain ~~goi~~ taking her, I agree with you it was such a nice thing to do. Would mean so much to all of them.

This has lengthened into quite a letter, didn't really mean to write so much but then I can't drop in and talk so next best thing is to write.

Loads of love and thanks for all the letters. I was so surprised too to read of all that Miss Cook has done in her life. wish I had known before as it would have been easier to have written her, more to talk about.

More love and hope you are getting better each day.

Catherine

P.S. Saw Dr MacKenzie today. he had a heart attack I don't know how serious but was in the hospital a month in January. He started work today an operation this morning to set an arm ~~this too~~
~~afternoon~~

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Feb. 28, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

It is 32 above this noon and melting a bit, and Pete thinks he heard some crows, I think they might be magpies making a crow sound but hope he is wight as it is a sign of spring. We had Jimmy Simpson come down yesterday afternoon and shovel off all he could from the roof, it was still a foot deep on top, so now it is melting well when the sun shines, a bit overcast just now.

We were so glad to get your letter and hear you have a dress on at last, that means you will soon be able to sit out side when the weather warms up a bit.

What a shame about Cousin Emma breaking her wrist or arm I should say, but sort of nice for Cousin Jane to have her at the Eastland for a while, perhaps it will give Cousin Emma a good rest and also let her see how nice it is there in the winter.

And poor Cousin George Manierre, I had no idea he was so sick, nothing more painfull than a crushed disk and he can't be so awfully young either.

Am glad you are enjoying the letter about the funeral, was afraid it might be too long, Pete started a painting of the burial scene and this morning painted in the colored figures, If it comes out well will take a slide of it to send you. All the little sleighs lined up along the fence and the group standing around the grave. He can suggest figures awfully well I think.

It is a little hard to get started painting again for that was quite a week and yesterday we had quite a day too. Painted in the morning, then Jimmy came to do the roof after lunch, we had seen Rita Bannerman for a minute before lunch and got her post office keys. She is just back from the cataract operation so we promised to go and see her for a little visit. Mr Lonsdale came with his paintings and then as we four, (including Jimmy off the roof) were having tea Linnie and Christine came in and soon after Bryan appeared, "We gave then gingerale and then told them we had to see Rita which helped and it was five thirty by the time we got home but we did have a quiet evening, I read up on newspapers being too lazy to write and Pete developed film. Now I must make some soup stock, cook some Bhubarb that just came in fresh and pale pink and then write some more letters

It really sounds as if you were on the mend and we are so glad. Loads of love,

Catharine .

Banff, Alta.

Wed. Feb. 29, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Will just start a letter before President Eisenhower starts speaking to-night, so as to have something to post to-morrow. I think I will keep on sending Air mail as it is only 2¢ more and makes it quicker in answering questions etc.

Have had another busy day or maybe should say a full one. It was mild. 30 above at breakfast but only went up 2 degrees to 32 and then it clouded over and we had snow flurries so though the snow was soft little melted. The same thing happened yesterday.

We both painted ~~both~~ in the morning and again after lunch, Pete working on one he started a long time ago of the bonfire they built on the school grounds on V.J. day to celebrate the end of the ~~Japanese~~ war.

Japanese
Then we shoveled off the top of the pile of snow at the back so it is on a level with the window sill and we can see out. It is now packed firmly from the window to the trees about ten feet and four or five feet deep, no doubt will be there into June!

Then we went over town to do an errand and dropped in to see Rita but she had company so didn't stay, and were trying to free the ice in one of the valleys with a long stick when Jimmie Simpson saw us and came to help. He came in and we had a bit of a visit. They are looking forward to a good summer and I think Jimmie would like to have Rusty back, is going to write him, for actually Rusty worked out so well he was a real help and they all liked him and Jim wants to get him again if possible.

Jimmie left and we just thought we would finish when first Caroline Box of Toronto drove in with a young man and then Norman Luxton and Mr Paris. We thought they were together but they weren't, Norman with something for Pete and the others just to call. Peter Flyod was the man, a lawyer from Calgary and at first I thought they might be newly weds but don't think it has gotten that far. We had a nice visit from them and I made tea, they left just about six. But made quite a day in the end.

Jonny was over last night but I did get 3 letters written which was something, to-night I think I will look over some slides, it is eight and time for Eisenhower. Dr MacKenzie did another operation to-day, ~~one~~ it was 1½ hours and he said it was quite enough. So he too is back to work.

Thurs. A.M. We rather expect Frank Reprints
to-day from Morley -
Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. Mar. 3, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Two days and I haven't written, but did post one on Thursday. You are awfully good to write each day, sounds as if you were having real winter weather, we are still having snow, but to-day it is in squalls with very strong gusts of winds and it says it is to be colder from the north to-morrow. We have had a few days when it has gotten up to 32 or 33 and melted a little.

Thursday we had the friends from Calgary and Toronto and then Friday, yesterday we painted in the morning and part of the afternoon but went out fairly early. The Banks close on Saturdays in Canada but stay open from 4.30 until 5.30 on Fridays, we thought they kept open but close between 3 and 4.30 so we did other things first. Made a call on Rita Crick who is recovering from her Cataract operation, lives alone but has many friends to drop in but I think she likes to talk to Pete for reassurance. When we came home about 5.30 Cyril Paris brought back two ski pictures he had borrowed for his windows during Carnival and he stayed until after six. Then we had a quick supper and went to a movie. "Ski Crazy" which was very good but far too long and too much just skiing and repetitious. One of the boys, Jimmy McKonkey we knew, he used to stay at Barbaras and have met one of the girls who skied. We really enjoyed the picture on Jet planes that was a short better.

Thursday night I remember now, was just doing a little ironing while the news was on when Don Harvie and his wife dropped in. They are ~~xxx~~ here from Calgary for a business mens course at the Summer school. It is his father who is so interested in the museum, they are such a fine young couple, have 3 children not with them this time. We got talking about Indians and Pete told stories and we played the tape recorder and they seemed to get a great kick out of it all. He liked the picture Pete did of the burial scene of David Bearspaw. But it was nearly 11 when they left. Had been a busy day.

Mary Abbott wrote us the other day, thanking us for a contribution to the Art Center and she told me the latest news of the Buttricks and then we got another letter saying that the serious operation Alec Carruthers was to have didn't turn out to be as serious as the doctors had led Clare to believe. They didn't find anything wrong, so that was good news.

In her first letter she also said that Steddy might get an appointment with the State Dep't. (or something like that) to North Africa, was just waiting to hear and I guess he is to be married soon and Clare in May. Her second letter said plans are in the air for Clare may be married in England and not Concord. I guess Cal and Sted are never certain what to expect.

Have been meaning to return this letter of Rustys, such a nice one. Am glad that he is going for weekends with friends for it will be fun for him as well as a chance to visit in Eastern Canada. Jimmy Simpson says he would like to have him back this summer, think I wrote this, but forgot to enclose letter at time.

It is too bad you don't get your strength back quicker but have an idea it takes longer than you think and perhaps you need the extra rest. Can't imagine you becoming a Mrs Pepper though.

Must go over and try to get a cake for the weekend. there is a hockey game to-night, will be nice if it stays mild.

Loads of love,

Catharine

The new Post Office opens this week. no bot 30
so we have a new one. Bot 370

Banff, Alberta.

March 4, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

I didn't get further than the date yesterday and now it is Monday the 5th. We are also having winter again, a little discouraging. It was lovely Sunday morning though just 5 above and we went out for quite a drive around by Minnewanka and coming home gave a couple a tow, their truck had broken down, they were new Canadians, German or Swiss, a nice young couple on their way skiing and they had engine trouble so we towed them all the way, about 3 miles to Cliff's Shell station. The boy came with his open wallet to pay us, sort of fun for a tow truck is rather expensive and they are so pleased when we don't charge them anything.

In the afternoon I intended to write letters, had hoped to in the morning but we got back just in time for an early lunch, then thought we might ask Tom Dunsmore and his daughter to tea, but they were going out later so instead made a half hour call on Tom while the daughter went for a walk with Georgie Paris, they were friends as girls. Mrs Dunsmore was one of the ones who died last week. Then we took a cane to Rita so she can walk out, and Jonny appeared soon after we got home with both dogs. One grunts all the time and their feet clatter on the kitchen linoleum so it seemed rather noisy and confusing writing letters, as Jon has a habit of showing you things he is reading in magazines. Pete was making a frame. and then ~~last~~ we went out and took Georgie to the train at six and last night I did accounts all evening.

To-day it is cold and snowing very lightly from the north, no break in this particular cold spell in sight. Not that we really mind for we have so much to do inside but somehow the dull weather does slow you down and the older people feel down when they can't get out. but soon it will feel more spring like.

I will return Russell's letter right away so you will feel tempted to send us others, It must be lovely in Phoenix and usually sunny, a more invigorating climate than Florida though maybe not as warm. What a time they had getting there, would have been quicker in the end to go by train in the first place. Lots of people from here have been or are down there, most of them drive from here, it will be interesting to hear about any trips they take to places we have seen pictured in Arizona Highways.

This isn't much of a letter, but have a couple of clippings for you.

Heaps of love and it is good to hear you are able to walk around the driveway and go downstairs for meals, Maybe the little dogs will take you for a walk someday.

Meant to write about Christine Mae Love
Pam will next letter.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. Mar. 6, 1956

Dearest Mother,

The book "Anna and the Indians" came to-day and also the Audubon Bulletin. I have just read the article about the Hatheway estate. Did you ever know Mrs Hatheway? I knew Mabel in school, she evidently was a step daughter and married to Evelle Todd. I can't remember ever going to the house, but Mabel was a fine girl. I think it was a wonderful thing to do, don't you? and what a fine place for a sanctuary, the ponds the farm buildings and the house sounds lovely too. Now-a-days when it is almost impossible to operate a large house like that it seems much better to give it to the Audubon society and have it preserved and used by many, not just a few. Far better than to have it a school or a Catholic institution or cut up into house lots.

Maybe you should get Russ to read some of "Wild America" that you sent us Christmas, might interest him in birds and what has been done all over the states to preserve in National Parks and Sanctuaries the real beauty. Places have a way of being so destroyed by big lumber companies or housing developments before you can do anything about it. I am really enjoying the book, am going to lend it to a girl in the Government Office here interested in birds and natural things. She said the trouble is the people who should read such books are the ones who don't! But lots of the places like Lincoln and Concord and Ipswich and Essex and Florida are all places Russ knows. and it is a book you can read anywhere. not just from beginning to end.

About Christine Penn. Don't you remember she used to come out years ago when Pete and I were in Concord for Thanksgiving in the 1930 's, and often in Concord for a month or so in the winter. Will enclose the Christmas card Pete made for her then. I saw her add in a Junior League bulletin several years ago, as a music teacher and sent her a card, (for we still have the brass copper kettle she gave us as a wedding present). She didn't answer for more than a year and then she wrote saying why she hadn't.

Can't find her letter now but if I do will send it, and have forgotten all the details, but her sister was married and had a son who was ill I think, had T.B. or Polio or something, then she died and Christine did everything she could to help the boy as his father married again or something, I have forgotten that part. One sister was killed in an automobile accident and her mother never got over the shock, was ill anyway, and Christine had to give up her music teaching etc. and went back to Alabama to look after her mother. She was there when she wrote and didn't know how it would end, her brother's health was broken by the strain and I guess the care of the mother was pretty hard, and Christine said she had used up her savings and didn't know how she would ever teach again as she was not only out of practise but had arthritis in her hands.

The one bright spot was the young nephew who was doing well and very good to her I believe. Anyway it being near Christmas when I answered, we sent a card, as encouraging a letter as we could and a check for Christmas, on the chance it would help. She was very touched and I guess it gave her a feeling she still had some friends. She wired us when her mother died last spring and also wrote and then in a letter from Ebbs in November or December, said Christine had been to see him or telephoned him, I guess some sort of business, for he just casually mentioned it, so I asked him in a letter about her, being interested in how she was getting on.

owns

He wrote last week and said she ~~still has~~ her little house ~~on~~ 32 Cedar Lane Way in Boston, used to belong to the Wagners, perhaps when her mother died she could sell the place ^{where} and get a fresh start. Anyway she has a ~~few~~ "satisfactory number of pupils for music lessons" and is working on a music book. So I guess now that she has established herself again she feels she can look up her old friends. Some people do have such bad luck and all their troubles at once, I am glad she is getting along allright now. Perhaps seeing Ebbs or talking with him suggested telephoning you.

What a shame Miss Stimson broke her arm too, nice you could have them up to see you. It is nice you can send for people who otherwise probably don't get out much and it is good company for you too. I am glad Cousin Emma is getting on well, think it may be a nice change for her being in town and a good rest and nice for Cousin Jane.

This turned into quite a letter. Had a nice one from Frances to-day too, they will be heading for Florida when you get this but will answer hers when she returns.

Loads of love and thanks for all your lovely letters and the enclosures we are always glad to have.

Catherine .

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. March 11, 1956

Dearest Mother,

I was going to write you yesterday afternoon but it was so lovely out that after going to a bake sale we went out the west road a bit and kept on to Johnson's canyon, passed two cars which had hit head on, on a curve and waiting for the wrecking truck. a man with one leg and crutches was standing warning any traffic that there was only just room to get by and a slippery corner, his wife sitting in a truck and the other people had gone in to get help sent out. We didn't ask any questions. Then last night when I might have written, Valerie Robertson came to see us if we could help them get a new house they have a chance to buy and she stayed until nearly nine. a nice girl who works in George Nobles and her father-in-law is the post master

Have had rather a busy end to the week. Wednesday it snowed all day and was quite dark, we painted in the morning and then thought it might be a good afternoon to have Tom Dunsmore (who's wife just died) and his daughter Margaret down for tea. Were just going over to ask them when Lona Becker came down to ask if we would be home as Al Maberly would like to bring back a book we lent him, he has some pulled ligaments and was on crutches at the top of the hill, the road above us. So we said to come in and I got them gingerale and cake while Pete went off ~~and~~ the Dunsmores. It was early as they got out of school at 3, so Pete came back for half an hour before going to get the Dunsmores who were delighted to come. We don't like to discourage the teenagers when they do come as they get so interested in the things we have, the books and all, and even the pictures.

It was a little complicated for when Pete got the Dunsmores here he then took Al and Lona home, then we had tea and the Dunsmores really enjoyed their visit. The son was a great friend of Pete's as a boy and died soon after we were married of cancer but the others had never happened to come to the house. We took them home about six. Had an early supper and then went to a movie. " Heidi and Peter " which has lovely Swiss scenery and is primarily a show for kids. All in color. the English dubbed in as it originally was German.

We happened to sit next to the Steels who we sat in front of the last movie, they evidently go as seldom as we do but like the same type. Skiing or mountains. We walked over and as we came back about 9.30 a car caught up to us, It was the Steels and they wanted us to go to a resteraunt with them and have coffee, so we said why didn't they come here. They had to go home first and see if the two little girls were in bed alright and then came back. and we talked and ate and talked some more. I noticed my eyes were

getting sort of a funny tight feeling and heavy, and pretty soon Ed looked at his watch and said " Am I right, It's quarter to one" Made a late evening for us, he was on vacation being the head of the construction and repairs to the C.P.R. Hotels.

Next morning, we were pretty sleepy but did manage to get a couple of business letters written. One I typed a whole page and we decided it didn't sound right so re-wrote it, then I typed it again and found that due to an interruption I had forgotten the " Dear Henry " and had to go it once more ! That was the day your letter came asking for pictures of the snow so after lunch before the sun went behind too many clouds we took some polaroid photos for you. It is hard to make the snow look as deep as it seems and after reading the article about Revelstoke I will enclose it seems as if ours was nothing, only thing is ours is pretty well packed in piles. *Will send picture next letter.*

Later that afternoon we went to see Pearl Moore at the Mt Royal, she is just back from the Barbados, we also saw Rita Crick, we try to drop in there each day, in fact took her to the bank that morning I think. In the evening we figured to turn in early and catch up on the lost sleep but Mr Scott came down, he doesn't come very often and is a dear old man so we politely listen to his reminiscences, this time he had just realized it was 50 years ago they left Ontario, he and his wife and two small children for Saskatchewan, took them 4 days on the train I think and then they drove 30 miles from the station to where his brother was and they worked as carpenters. such stories as he told, was a shoe maker too and did all sorts of things before he started farming. It was such solid people that built up the country. So it was about 9.30 when he left.

Friday I will tell you about later, as it was the day the new post office opened, quite an occasion.

It is lovely to-day and warming up from 15 below, nearly 15 above now and the wind is from the west a good sign.

Will enclose the card we got from Russ this last week, gives a good idea of the countryside, must be those acacia trees they used to have so many of at the flower show in Boston. It will be interesting to hear how Russ and Kitty liked it, they start home to-day I guess, they weren't there very long, hardly time to write much, especially in a family that seldom writes a letter! *like the Butchers - forgot card to o'*

Hope you will soon have nice weather to get out in.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff
Alberta.
Mar.13,1956

Dearest Mother,

Just a note to go with this letter of Mrs Mabel Browns which arrived to-day from Cousin Jane Barry. She asked us to ask you to return it to her in Portland.

We were so interested to read it all. I thought the Pres. Madison was one of the larger frieghters but it must be just the same size as the one we went to Honolulu on, Sounds the same, they were lucky to find a congenial group, makes such a difference.

We were in Japan a little later than February and we had snow and it was really cold, a drab time of year to be there but interesting, am glad they got to Kyoto and did as much as they could. They were lucky to see Fujiama so much and have such sunny weather. Nice they could be driven around by ~~a friend of Mr. of~~ Pickerings I guess. Didn't sound as if she remembered that Grandpa was connected with the Univ. or that you ever lived there. She called it the "Tokyo Univ." the oldest in Japan but isn't it really the "Imperial Univ" the one Grandpa ~~taught~~ lectured in? If they went to the library they must have seen in a sort of hall a glassed in sort of cabinet with Grandpa's picture etc. but perhaps they went too fast. The books are all scattered through the library unless it was bombed during the war.

I couldn't help but think when they spoke of how they spent the morning trying to make arrangements for tickets further on and then a taxi took them to the wrong place and they really didn't get such a good idea of Tokyo, How different the New burys trip will be. They won't spend any time waiting in ticket offices and will be sure not to miss anything worthwhile.

Will write to-morrow, have had lots of company lately, a nice letter from you to-day and one from Hanne, I have been meaning to ask you to thank her for the wonderful pair of socks, Pete is tickled to pieces with them

You spoke about a \$16.00 book you had lost, Am sure you didn't send it to us at Christmas, could you have lent it to Mrs Sohler or Frances. but you say you have telephoned them all. Everything in your house is in such good order seems funny to lose it, now here it could be under a pile of this or in a pile of that. It most likely is in some place you haven't thought of.

Am glad you had such a fine letter from Russell, was sure he would write first chance he had but you know when you visit people who don't write themselves there seems little chance

to write at all, and sometimes no paper or envelopes or stamps ,
not every house is as well supplied as yours.

It was stange at noon, reading Hanne's nice long letter and she mentioned you had your good and bad days and couldn't understand why you were so tired, and you are 90. We also had a letter from Honolulu and our friend Mrs Fulsher has some nerve pressing in he r neck and has to wear a great high collar, she is pretty well but " has some good days and some bad" she must be 80, then Verne Castella the carpenter came this noon, hasn't been here for a month or more, hasn't felt real well all winter, is out and about but this is the first day he has felt like himself and he told us he has had " ~~exje~~ first a day feeling good and the next bad " and he is about 75. So guess it hits all ages. Am sure when real spring comes and you can get out and smell the good earth smell & you too will have far more good days than bad.

This was a note, still have a letter to write about the opening of the new postoffice, but by waiting can enclose a picture from the newspaper , wait till you see it. quite amusing

Heaps of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alta.
Thurs. Mar. 15, 1956

Dearest Mother,

This has been our warmest day, 38° above and melting a bit in spite of being overcast, yesterday started out at zero so didn't get to 28° until afternoon but the sun was out and it melted more I think than to-day, however we are feeling a little encouraged. I noticed that a couple of magpies were house cleaning their last years nest, one was very busy, tail up and head down working like any good housewife. We also saw a crow and pussy willows. but they are still skating over at the rink, the latest we can remember.

Russ and Kitty will be home by now and you will hear all about Phoenix. I think it must be the sun people enjoy for it can be cold we hear, of course it doesn't pretend to be tropical or have palm trees as Florida does. Maybe it is the life they lead there that they enjoy.

I told you I would tell you about the post office being opened last week, will try to remember to take a picture of it for you, a very modern looking building we don't think suits Banff but far better than the new 2 story telephone building of yellow brick which could be in a prairie town, and look no better.

The new postoffice should have been ready last summer but they decided to add office space for the dep't of public works and guess that changed the contract. A lot of stone work and it ~~must~~ must have cost far too much. I see by clipping \$350,000.

The opening was at 3 P.m. and we walked over thinking as everyone else did there would be so many cars, only 4 or 5 drove. There were several speakers and in spite of a wooden platform which looked built for the purpose they all stood on the porch or landing as one enters the building. It could be entered by a ramp being low to the ground, but no, they have about 5 steps. All the dignitaries were introduced by Claude Brewster, the head postal official, our post master, (the only one who didn't make a speech.) the contractor Lars Williamson etc.
cool

It was a fairly warm day with a strong north wind from which the building did shelter us a bit but hard on the mens heads during the singing of "O Canada" and "the Queen" to start and ~~and~~ and the program. Luckily the men made their speeches brief. but they did tease Lars Williamson, saying ~~hex always~~ this was another of the buildings in Banff he says he lost money on etc. The ~~xxx~~ funniest part was after listening to several of them say how lucky Banff was to have such a wonderful building and then the representative ~~spoke of how well built~~ of the Architects Dep't. spoke and said "such a well built building" and with that one end of the railing on the ~~platform~~ porch they were standing on fell off, came loose.

where it was stuck into some cement and for the rest of the program one end hung at a rakish angle right where each speaker stood. We all laughed and it was pretty hard to take the ceremonies seriously after that. Mayor MacKay of Calgary who has built a house here, spoke too and said he "wondered how Lars Williamson had lost so much money on so many new buildings in Banff and yet had managed to build the little shack up on Kootenay ave." Lars has built the new addition to the Mt. Royal as well as the post office and Timberline Hotel and a big house on Kootenay Ave for himself and he has been so long doing the post office there has been quite a lot of criticism.

Has
Senator Cameron, who also lives in Banff and done a lot for the Summer School, actually done the most to build it up, cut the ribbon so we could all go inside. All in all it was quite good fun.

Sunday. We have had the loveliest spring weather, three days now with clear sparkling skies and the snow is going fast. Hard to stay in for it is too early in the year for it to last long, in fact to-morrow is to be cooler. Will write soon, this has been a busy few days with people coming and going. Spent all day yesterday with the Morants and Friday discovered the Wards were home and took Miss Ashmole to the train and to-morrow we have the Kingmans from Minneapolis.

It was so nice to read the letter from Russ, we drove through Jerome from Flagstaff in 1953, and when we were in the valley and looked way up to see a little town we could hardly believe we would go there, It was more of a city with big buildings when we got there and then drove over a pass even higher. One spring the Morants went down and were just crossing that pass when they saw an Alberta car, turned out to be Charlie Beil and Olive from Banff looking at the sunset and on their way home. We also drove through Oak Creek Canyon, very bright colors and interesting, but I agree with them it is barren country to me and the cactus all right in photographs but not too lovely to look at.

We stayed a night in Wickenburg where Ham Lockwoods sister Elizabeth and Shyler Thurder have the general store and live there all year round. They love the country, you either do or you don't I guess and actually I find one loves best the places they associate with good times, like spruce woods rather than cactus, or palm tress and tropical breezes *more than dry yellow plains -*

Must go to the post office with this. Hear you have had a bad storm. on the radio to-day it said " B.C. 60 degree temperatures. Alberta, in the 50's, Sask, 40's , Manitoba 30's and Ontario in the 20's." am glad we are west at the present times.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. March 16, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Started a letter about the new post office opening but wanted to show clipping about that and Revelstoke to Wards who come to-day and the Morants who arrive to-morrow so will wait.

A nice letter from you to-day, quite long and glad you have even gone for a ride, Think when Spring comes you will feel better and can get out more.

We are really having a mild spell at last and quite encouraged as the snow must be going, It was zero Wed. and got up to 28, but was sunny so melted quite a bit, then yesterday it rose to 38 above but was overcast so didn't seem to melt very much but to-day it is 40 above and quite mushy at last. But at this rate will take some time.

Have been busier than usual. Gladys Ashmole who has been at Powell River working for a couple of years is on her way back to England and is due for tea soon and then we will take her to the station. She came over several days ago in the afternoon. Verne has been here each day varnishing a camera stand in the afternoons and some steps. He is quiet working and it is nice to get a few things like that done, he hasn't felt too well this winter. Then yesterday Steam Watt came and cleaned out our drains and that took most of the afternoon, We also shoveled our walks wider with Linnies help.

Wednesday ~~Thursday~~ we got word the Wards would be back Friday so thought we better go up and shovel their paths a bit, but found Steam Watt had gotten the key to turn the heat and water on and so had already shoveled the path to the back door, we just widened it a bit it was so nice in the sun and good to be outside. Not many plumbers would bother, but Steam said he didn't want to see Sam come home and have to shovel and someone in the government had sent a bulldozer through their driveway so that is clean too.

Must go up later and see how the Morants driveway is.

Not much of a letter but must get tea ready. The radio said a robin was seen in Calgary and we saw a crow and pussy willows yesterday and the magpies started housecleaning an old nest yesterday.

Heaps of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Tues. March 20, 1956

Dearest Mother,

We have been really busy lately so I have fallen down on my letter writing, people coming and going in all directions it seems. I still haven't written Hanne about the lovely pair of socks, might to-night. Trouble is I got the slides out to sort and even then didn't get them all done before I had to gather them up again as company was coming.

We have had spring, quite exciting, more arctic air due tonight they say but while it lasted it couldn't have been lovelier, clear and sunny and so warm in the sun, the snow melting and puddles forming but now it is dull and freezing a little and looking out there seems to be as much snow as ever in big piles, a few bare patches under a few trees close to the trunk. Luckily the government plowed the streets over town and they are dry but some are just terrible and full of deep slush, people were getting stuck between the main road and the station, about 50 feet so they would start through and then get bogged down, we pulled three out at different times. *The slush is now frozen in uneven lumps & ridges.*

A nice letter from you to-day, written last Wednesday when Russ and Kitty arrived, think you were real smart to go to the farm to meet them. Guess they came home to lots of snow, we even heard about the storm in New York, can just imagine people going there without over shoes and then the stores would probably have sold all their supply by now in winter sales. We too will probably get another storm but it was nice to have a little springlike weather, the pussy willows are out and Verne says the bears are too, but they have been known to come out early and go back in.

I should think it would be awfully cold at night in Phoenix without heat in the houses, I suppose they have a fireplace, Seems funny to heat the water in the swimming pool and not the bedrooms! The people who go to England from here feel the cold in the English houses and Dr MacKenzie said the only place he felt warm was out doors.

Can't remember what I have written lately so better just give you a rough resume.

Wed. the 14th. it was zero in the morning but a warm sun and that was the first day it melted, got to 25 above. Jimmy Simpson came down with some old magazines, "London Graphic" of 1898 he found in an old log building he is tearing down, and Verne was here to varnish a camera stand he has repaired, then after tea we went up to the Wards to shovel their path out as we expected them home on Friday. but when we got there Steam Watt the plumber had already made a narrow path and his assistant was ~~in~~ thawing out the kitchen sink drain, but I just

wondered how many places you would find the plumber taking time to shovel snow, It was so nice in the sun we decided to widen the path a bit and the back which we did. Then called at Ritas & home, sorted slides that evening and a lady came to collect money for Red Cross.

Thursday it felt warmer and soon was above freezing, sun shining and I noticed the magpies working at their old nest the Chic-a-dees had that "pee wee" song, it was windy and the snow began to go. Bob Watt came to clean out the drains for us as they get slow with the hard water, was here before and after lunch. Verne was back again in the afternoon and Pete drew in the ~~other~~ Burial picture. Lynnne was down after school and we widened our paths, they had been getting narrower and narrower where Pete kept sweeping the fresh falls to the side and it was fun being out side- Took her home and saw Rita for a few minutes, we stop in most every day and her eye is coming on well.

Friday Pete painted in with turpentine the group at the Burial scene and I worked a bit on a corner of Moraine Lake, we asked Gladys Ashmole for early tea and Verne was here and then we took her to the Canadian and saw her off. She may not come back again, She is a physiotherapist but getting on in years and has some tropical disease that makes her very ill at times, and this time she did look old, but is quite a person. was here at this hospital once. Then we thought as the Morants were coming Saturday we better just see if we could get into their driveway, found it had drifted about 2 feet deep for 15 feet of the first part, had Lona and Al Maberly with us and no shovels so thought we would just take them home, (they both have torn ligaments from skiing) and maybe go up and shovel a little, but instead as we came from Lona's house we drove by the Wards to check their paths, as we expected them that night and to our surprise found them already home. Seems they had come a day early, but nice their house was warm and the water on and the paths dug. So we had tea with them, took Sam for his mail and bread and back and by then it was too late to shovel the Morants driveway. Jon and Harold were over in the evening and I sorted some more slides.

Saturday was our busy day. We woke early with spring in the air, were up at 6.30 and up at the Morants before 8 A.M. it was still a little frozen on top but loose snow underneath and we took it slowly and shoveled quite a bit. Nellie MacKenzie saw us from her place across the street and called us to come in for coffee which we did about 9.30. It was such a lovely morning and the exercise felt good. Then as Bill and Michael were going skiing at Norquay, (Patsy had already left for Skoki with the School) and Sandy was going swimming we took them, skis and all with us downtown, had just time enough to meet the train at 10.20 and the Morants. Did a bit more shoveling when we got back up there, Nick had wired when they would come and said " better bring snow shovel." then Friday we got a wire from him on the train from Brandon " On second thought make that two shovels." we made it 3 and we all shoveled as the snow was soft by 11 A.M. We left them to it and came home, picking up groceries and then I got a light lunch ready while Pete went back for them. You know I think a full dinner is often easier than a light lunch with cold meat and salad, the greens to wash etc. Anyway I had it

ready with soup by the time they got back after one. Nick is the C.P.R. Photographer and he and his wife, Willi are leaving from Vancouver on the 30th for Mexico City and Peru to take publicity shots for the new service. Canadian Pacific Airlines runs from Vancouver. They will be gone 6 weeks or more, quite exciting as I don't think they have ever been out of North America. They thought they would just have 3 days here but it turned out they can stay nearly ten days. which will help getting ready. *We didn't know this until Sunday.*

We always have so much to talk about and catch up on, so after the dishes were washed we set out to pick up their stuff at the station. Things they had sent from the east and things that had come here, including a fur coat we had hung up in our house. It was too funny for I was in back with Nick, and Willi in front where she could get out later to shop for groceries. We packed up boxes of film and all sorts of things from the express office until the Jeep was packed solid around Nick and I. Even to a roll of carpet which I didn't realize was across my lap pinning me in until an hour later when we got to the house, for I had the fur coat and other things in my lap and couldn't see much of the roll of carpet. Guess we looked funny when we stopped on the main street for various friends came along and stopped to speak to us and all had to laugh, especially after Willi had handed in bags of groceries including milk and eggs.

We then had to unload the Jeepful up at their house and as it had been warm all day and the snow was very mushy we carried most of it from the road up the driveway to the garage door. We still seemed to be on the go, checked if the freight was to be taken up and then we had a call to make to Jasper Park and the telephone office being closed we finally found a pay station in the Grayhound building which we had to ourselves. and were glad after that to come home to a quiet evening and listened to the hockey game.

Sunday Pete dug away our snow pile in front of the kitchen window so we could sit in a sunny spot and get the reflection from the sun but so far have had little time to use it! I got a couple of letters away and also cleaned upstairs which I had missed doing Saturday. Wrote you I think, also went for mail, found a letter the Morants were looking for and as they can hardly get their car out without being stuck we decided to take it up to them. Just as we were leaving Pearl Moore came along to see us so took her. It mean't a wire Nick wanted sent and also one case was missing so we waited a bit. then Pearl came for tea and after she left we sent the wire at the station, found the one lost case and some mail there and so back up to the Morants. and had a quiet evening still sorting slides! Oh yes. Art Krowchuck who lives in a house to the north of us, works in the store, came to borrow some snow shoes and Mr Scott also came down when Pete was shoveling, I did a bit too.

Monday we expected the Kingmans from Minneapolis so didn't try to paint, we were a little weary anyway. I did the wash and cleaned the downstairs I had missed on Saturday, we went over town before train time too, had an early lunch, then Joy Von Wagner who writes for the "erald came to see us about the picture Pete had painted of the burial scene, as Allan Bill her boss had seen

it the Sunday before when she came with Marguerite Orr. We don't like publicity so got her onto other things, she also wanted a story on Frank Aquits the Indian Boy who is coming for lessons, but Pete said it was too soon to write him up, She was still here when Joe Kingman came, he and his wife and nephew and neive from Minneapolis have come for 2 weeks skiing, one at Sunshine and one at Temple, this is the 14th year he has been out skiing, is just Russell's age. We got Joy to write about him instead of us. Then all left to-gether in the Jeep to find Gwen, Joe's wife who was at the clinic having developed sinus trouble she often has. From there we went to the Museum to see the Indian pictures which they saw in the making last winter.

We drove around a bit and then after leaving them picked up the Morants and took them for errands, sort of a silly trip for we all had stores to go into and would come out and see so-and-so wasn't in the Jeep so away Nick would go, then Willi would return and Pete was gone etc. Finally I picked up a book I had ordered and sat and looked at that and finally they all came back, The Kingmans wanted us to come for dinner but we knew it would make too long a day so said we wouldn't this time but they could come over later, which they did about nine. I got all the ironing done before then, They brought the Wonnacotts with them.

Henry Kingman the brother has ordered one of Pete's Indian Camps for a cabin they have on Lake Superior, and it now belongs to the sister, who's two children came out to ski with the Joe Kingmans. Louise about 22 and Ben who is 15. They came over last night and of course they all wanted to see everything, I think the two young ones will enjoy the picture more for having been here to the house. In the end Joe bought two old sketches, he had happened to be on the train Nick and Willi were on and they talked a lot and he told Nick he had always wanted one of Pete's paintings and they are such old friends Pete decided that even if they were original sketches he would be glad to have them have them. They were here until ~~about~~ 10.30 so it wasn't a late evening, and the Wannacots want an Indian camp too! Sure will keep Pete busy!

To-day we got the sketches ready. Pete making two frames and then Verne was down to scrape and varnish the back stairs and Jonny was over and we saw Rita and did errands but otherwise had a quiet time. *Oh yesterday Bert was over about noon to say goodbye!*

So here I am up to date and it is even snowing a little. just a flurrie but is supposed to snow to-morrow night!

Am sending a book by an English Architect that Cousin Bert might find interesting before he leaves as it has quite a bit about the castle that was to be built for Selfridge but never was. Then after you read it Cousin Athie might enjoy it if Cousin Bert thinks it is interesting.

Better get on to other letters.

Am glad you are better and lots of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. March 23, 1956

Dearest Mother,

What a blizzard you had, we heard of it on the radio when it hit New York but not about Boston. Actually we don't have many blizzards in Banff for the mountains seem to protect us from the strong winds, and we don't have really heavy snow falls as it is dry, but what snow we do have doesn't melt easily so it did pile up this winter. On the prairies they usually have strong wind with their snow storms and they are blizzards, you can't see anything and the roads drift in so quickly. This winter has been a bad one, especially in Saskatchewan. But so far the bus has gone through to Calgary every day and back each night and hardly ever late.

This has been a busy week, so many people coming back from winter holidays. The Vallances were here yesterday, they drove to California, then flew for ten days in Mexico which they really enjoyed with their son and daughter-in-law who had been there before. They loved the color and native life for they drove to Acapulco and other spots. They were funny about California and didn't really see why people went there for the winter, looked up various Calgary friends and several were just sitting in big hotels. One couple in San Diego they had tea with, it was a beautiful day and the man said he would walk back to where they were staying for he hadn't been out all day. Boris couldn't understand how anyone could go away and just sit in a hotel. and as Sam said, the sea is much too cold for swimming in winter. I expect it got its reputation for a lovely place to go for the winter when one couldn't go to the West Indies and Honolulu and Mexico so easily and it was warmer than where most people had come from in Canada.

We were interested in what Russ and Kitty felt about Arizona, for to me it is not the kind of place I would want to go for long. It is too dry and hard looking. The mountains and effects are wonderful at sunrise and sunset but in the middle of the day just flat. and after all Phoenix is really a bit but some people think there is lots to do if they like stores and shows and baseball etc. I wouldn't mind going to where the Indians are but they aren't always where there are good places to stay. Even Oak Creek Canyon is the sort of place one just enjoyed driving through, but any place depends a lot on who you know and what you like to do. I imagine the clouds are summer clouds for after all Phoenix has winter. When we were in Santa Fe, New Mexico we had snow.

Pete is awfully pleased that you enjoyed the little sketches of the Funeral and the letter too. This week we have been too busy for him to finish the burial one he laid in last week.

We had such a nice letter from Mercelia and so glad

she can have Easter in Washington, the nicest time of year really and a good change, It was good of you to think of it.

Sam was down the other morning and Verne came in the afternoon to put rubber treads on our back stairs, also to finish varnishing the sides. A great improvement for they were wearing a bit as stairs will and this makes them quieter too.

Yesterday was a busy day, We had asked the Vallances to tea and the Morants so they could talk about Mexico and then in the morning Frank Kaquits appeared from Morley, so Pete set him to work painting, Now the post office has moved downtown it makes it nice to just walk over for the mail and fresh meat or fish *at store* (We had fresh spring salmon from the coast yesterday) So I walked over both before and after lunch as it turned out. Pete worked with Frank until 12.30 and then he came back in an hour having his lunch over town which makes it easier than being together all day. About 3.30 the Morants came and at 4 the Vallances. They brought me the cutest little silver pin from ~~Taxco~~ Taxco about an inch high and a Mexacian with a sombrero, also some little glass vials for feeding humming birds.

Frank had tea with us, then went to Luxtons with a wonderful head he had carved from a burl off a tree and put hair on it and it looks just like George McLean with a buffalo head-dress. We talked and Doris was so excited about her trip and what they saw she talked steadily while Syd did too. The Morants looked a bit bewildered for they had had the Reader's Digest man the evening before and he stayed until 3 A.M. ! Frank came back about 5.30 and Pete took him to the station to catch the train just before six. It was the first time Pete had gotten out all day/ and we were both tired, or I would have written you last night. As it was we had a late supper.

We were sitting in the front room reading the paper, I heard a knock on the back door and when I opened it to find Frank standing there with all his stuff I couldn't figure what had happened. Seemed the trains were all late and "the Canadian" which comes usually at 4 P.M. arrived after 8 P.M. and all the others got on but he couldn't as it doesn't stop at Morley. So he was pretty tired sitting 3 hours at the station. Said the seats were rather hard! We made him bacon and eggs for he had had no supper *and then* and then he rested in the big chair and looked at Carl's book *and* about 9.30 we took him back to the station. He would still have an hour to wait but said he would stay and then we wouldn't need to bring him again which was really thoughtful of him, He is a good lad.

This morning it is snowing, we took one parcel of Frank's down to express to Morley as he still had a duffle bag to carry and when he got to Morley would have to find his horse in a little pasture and ride the 4 miles home and be up to work on the slashing of the Trans Canada this morning. We also called on Rita and ~~now~~ after writing this will go for errands and take the mail to the Morants and have the afternoon free.

*Loads of Love
Catherine*

Banff, Alta.
Sun. March 26, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

You seem to be outdoing us both in number of deer and depth of snow. I never knew you had as many deer as that at once in Concord. Pete was rather saucy and when I remarked on more deer than there used to be around Concord, he said. " You know why they are increasing in numbers - the hunters are now shooting each other instead of the deer! " Well it would sound that way by the newspaper reports each fall.

What storms you are having and so late in the season. Our weather has been nice and mild since the 15th but several mornings we have woken to an inch of fresh snow which soon goes. However to-day it has snowed all day though is over 35° out now.

We had a busy day yesterday. Saturday I try to clean and dust as much of the house as possible and do a wash at the same time, Pete was drawing in another Indian camp so asked for frequent comments so all I did was the upstairs, then we went to shop early so as to get a chocolate cake as they care soon picked up and don't come off the train until 10.30. We also went for mail and found the Morants had a letter they were looking for in their box, so took that up, by then it was noon. They had just put their garbage out so were by the road but still we talked a bit and in the end took one of their boxes of refuse for in the bottom Nick had some outdated film he was throwing away and it still might be good but not good enough for his purposes. We told them to come here after they had shopped and we would drive them home *in the afternoon*.

Had a late lunch and were just finishing when Sam dropped in, so while he was here I washed out a few things and thought I would just ~~wash out some stockings~~ do the ironing, I had been vacuuming but could hardly continue that noisy occupation. Had just got the ironing board out when Rita Crick came along and the Sid Worts, so got the ironing board away before they came in. We had a nice visit and I got tea and the Morants arrived and Sam came back so it was quite an afternoon. As Pete said just as well for them to all come at once for they entertained one another! We had a quiet evening anyway and I did the ironing then.

The sun looks as if it would come out, we are going to see the Prossers who may go to Cowley for Easter and then get the mail at two, if any for the Morants go up there. They leave to-morrow for Vancouver and then Mexico and Peru, don't know when they will return.

Not much of a letter but lots of love,

Catherine
P.S. Our deer often come in close to the house before a storm. Maybe that was what yours did. Ours eat spruce in spring but we thought for lack of food.

Banff, Alta.
March 27, 1956

Dearest Mother,

This may not be much of a letter as we are listening to the Hockey playoffs on the radio. Pete enjoys them and I too get interested. This afternoon I might have gotten a letter written but we had three Indians for tea, the same ones that came last winter. and then took them to the train, got boxes for their groceries etc. Pete was glad they came for he wanted to ask about the paintings he is doing and they were quite a help. He let each one suggest a color for the shawls and dresses of the squaws in the group at the burial scene. May, the who speaks English best, said the picture was "O.K." so Pete feels encouraged to go ahead.

Yesterday we had quite a day too, it was Monday and snow on the ground and more coming down when we got up, 3 inches or more but we were lucky, they had nearly a foot yesterday afternoon in Morley. Nick and Willi Morant were leaving on the morning train so we promised to see that they got to the station alright, though they had a taxi, without a phone one is afraid they might forget. We got their mail and saw them off for Mexico and Peru. Quite a trip for them, fun if they hadn't the responsibility of getting pictures for the Air line publicity. We also shopped, found George Nobles on the corner had been broken into the night before and a camera and about \$20.00 in the till stolen. Then last night Jock McCowan had his store broken into, they got in through a window, and right under Grace Mathers bedroom window and in sight of the police barracks!

I was trying to write letters after lunch, Pete painting and Sam Ward came in, we were talking and Mr Scott came to tell us he was home from the hospital, they were both talking when Bill Jamieson arrived to see where Sam was as Sam had really come for hinges and a lock for George Nobles safer door, so off Sam went and Mr Lonsdale arrived with some 3 new sketches for Pete to criticize, Mr Scott left, and about 3.30 we had tea. Were still at the table when Linnie and Christine arrived after school. They had gingerale and Mr Lonsdale stayed as he enjoys the kids too and we all talked about Norway and got the pictures out etc. Mr L. left just as Lona and Al Maberley came in, Oh Yes Harold came to return seal skins he had borrowed. but didn't stay. Al came to tell us about the competition in Calgary where he gave his speech he has been working on. He evidently got so nervous his mouth got so dry he could hardly make the words come in some places. I thought it rather nice, Lona and Mary Lee who had competed here went down to hear him. There were 5 others who had topped each of their groups but one boy had already given his speech before 9 other gatherings and he won. The winner gets a trip to the United Nations this summer all expenses paid. We went over town to shop after that but it was quite an afternoon. Al came 3rd out of 5, not bad for he had no real coaching except from friends & relations.

A nice letter from you to-day, what snow you have had, we didn't realize you had three snow falls. Don't wonder you were buried, and the deer came in, no wonder the birds are hungry too the Snow drops are well named! Seems funny it should be so late in March but seems to me other winters in the old days it was often March we had the worst snow. Have you robins? Lynnle said she saw one the other day and we had a bear track in the yard.

Did Mrs Loring of the Concord Bookshop die? It looked as if the write-up you sent was sort of an obituary. If she did we feel so very sorry for she seemed a young person.

Had a letter from Miss Publicover too and she said she stayed a little too long at the office during one storm and it took her 5 hours to get home instead of the usual less than an hour, and at the station when she gets off, the police in cruiser cars were taking home any that were stuck. How many inches did you have? We enjoyed the pictures you sent, guess it was more slippery there than deep snow, when the cars got stuck.

Must remember to take a picture of the New Postoffice, It is in the block behind the store, where the Police stable used to be and pasture for their horses. Is just a short walk for us and very convenient. No wonder we looked cold, I think it was around zero and a cold wind and half an hour of speeches. Pete had his collar up at the back.

We are rather expecting the Kingmans to drop over this evening if they came in from Sunshine.

That was a nice letter from Olive Newbury, it is so nice she likes where they are now, the people sound friendly which is a big help. *Too bad about Gilbert this wife. How many children did they have I wonder.*

I don't think you were stupid at all not finding the book it is so easy to get mixed on what it looks like, you are getting me all excited about it. Can hardly wait until my birthday!

You asked about the Indians speaking English, All the young ones learn it in school and some can't speak Stoney well, but the old Indaans didn't all go to school and have never really learned though they understand a little. There was a lot of sickness when the white people first came, small pox I think, and most of the Indians Pete's age died off, there are a good many real old ones and plenty of younger ones but some ages there are very few of -

Lots of love, and glad you are getting out more.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. March 31, 1956

Dearest Mother,

It is beginning to look like New England ! Was snowing when we woke this morning and has snowed all day, about 4 inches and warm so I think it is melting a bit too. We have a saying that fresh snow takes the old snow away but it is hard to believe, though we notice the big piles of snow seem to be settling.

We have had robins for a week or ten days, we have not seen any but others have and this morning about 6 A.M. Pete heard the geese honking, the first time.

Another funeral, there seems to have been a lot of people we know quite well who have died, some old but this man younger than we are, he was evidently very dependant and hasn't been well for quite a long time, his wife works in the store and went home Thursday and found him dead, she has had a rather sad life in many ways so just hope from now on things go much better.

What do you mean by thinking we are too old to shovel snow ? Do you realize that I am just as young now as you were when we first went to Seal Harbor and the first great war started! In other words you had only stopped riding a bicycle from Salem to Concord a few years before. Anyway we don't shovel very hard or fast and if you take it slowly it isn't so hard to do. It usually is the people who have never shoveled at all and just suddenly go at it. I imagine a game of tennis would be far harder for me to do than shovel a little snow.

We had quite a busy week and someone for tea every day but yesterday, in fact Good Friday was the only day that no one has dropped in to see us, sometimes on a holiday it is like that. Monday Mr Lonsdale, Tuesday the Indians and Wednesday Eldon Walls (who looks after our business things) with Ken Teare who used to do Pete's Income Tax and who we haven't seen for ages came for tea and to see the pictures, That morning we had seen Norman Luxton on the street and he asked if we would like to take the Indian Paintings to Wax as they were spring cleaning the museum, So we went right over before lunch to get them and now we have them here will try and take colored pictures of them. We also saw the Vallances that same afternoon on business.

Thursday Pete did a couple of them while I got the kitchen, hall and bathroom floors washed. Pete Tasker the game warden who Pete is helping to paint, came for about an hour. He and Joan have been to Great Falls on a vacation and he bought a new sketch box. Then the Ken Fords who we haven't seen since last fall came for tea. He was an engineer on the road construction and she one of the Atkin girls in Banff, they lived here until moved

North to Edmonton recently. He was very interesting telling about his work with the Harbors and Rivers. They are the ones moving Aklavik up on the MacKenzie River as it was slowly sinking as the perma frost melted below the land. They dredge rivers, build piers etc. He said you could really feel the "throb" of the north, there is so much developing. He spoke of the Pine Lake development, the biggest yet, and we haven't even heard of it, am not sure that is the name. It was nice to have them come.

Yesterday In spite of Good Friday being a holiday I thought I would try some stuff called Kaen Floor for taking the old wax off the kitchen floor. It gets thick where one ~~walks~~ doesn't walk and the linoleum looks dull. This stuff you mix with water, a nice smell, heat to steaming on the stove, then spread a little over 3 square feet of area with steel wool. wait a minute, rub a little and wipe off, It comes off so easily, the only trouble was that I kept having to change the water often, but it was good exercise hopping up and down. I would have done better had we not gone to the station and the mail and met the Tex Woods from Inverness. He was out at Skoki cooking in the early days, and we talked to them for a long time, but after lunch I managed to finish the floor by 4 o'clock and then this morning put on stuff called "Stride", always something new to try, only I don't think it is as good as the Hard Gloss Glow Coat. But for a time the floor looks like new linoleum and we have had it nearly 20 years.

It is snowing harder than ever just now and rather dark. Doesn't hurt us but do feel sorry for the ranchers with the calves coming at this season, just hope it isn't like this in Cowley.

Am returning a couple of letters, found them last night, think I took them east and forgot to leave them with you then.

Don't you think the last Arizona Highways about Monument Valley the most interesting copy for a long time? I have read it all, Now I think that would be a really interesting place to go in Arizona, the scenery is wonderful and the Navajos, and away from too many people.

Time to go to the funeral, we were ^{been} out taking flowers to Alma Mills a neighbor who is partly paralysed, and Cis Ward and then saw Rita Crick a minute, She is the one who just had her eye operated on for cataract. by Dr Marshall, the same one who did Pete's and we keep going as it sort of encourages her, We have known her a long time but never saw as much of her as recently for she worked in the Government.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Bauff.

Mon. April 2 1956

Dearest Mother

Just a hurried note to slip in with this very interesting letter of Mrs Brownes for you to read & return to Cousin Jane. They are having a wonderful trip aren't they. We were so glad to hear about Hongkong, you wonder at the changes. Pete has been to Singapore & Penang but neither of us to Siam. Though the Moores had a trip to the Palace to meet the King of Siam. Think they had tea there. for the King & Queen were here once in the summer. Must have been his mother who was the old grandmother who died.

Easter was quite nice here but it snowed all Saturday, another funeral. a young man. We had Mr Paris, his daughter Georgie & a friend for tea yesterday as it was just a year ago his son killed himself & we knew it would be a hard day for them.

We are going to Calgary tomorrow so will write perhaps Wednesday.
Loads of love
Catharine.

Banff, Alta.
April 4, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

I was going to write you a long letter to-night but just after we had finished the dishes Mr Scott our neighbor came in to chat, and there wasn't any way I could get going on a letter, so did some mending instead. He is such a dear old gentleman, not really old but about 75 and he hasn't been well, had x-rays in the hospital a week ago and they haven't got the full results yet as they send them away to be read when it has to do with inards. His wife died two years ago but he lives on in the bottom half of the old house just above us and is so good about keeping an eye on our house. He does all his own work, washes and cooks and seems quite happy.

We went to Calgary yesterday, I guess I am getting old for lately I have noticed my eyes don't focus just as quickly as they used to, and if I read all evening they aren't as quick next morning, so As the last time they were checked was the year I came out in 1924, by Bob Cheney I thought perhaps I should have them tested, so Pat Costigan recommended a specialist he knows in Calgary, and the appointment was for 3.30 Tuesday. They couldn't get one earlier and as it took Pete over an hour when he had his done a few years ago we thought perhaps I wouldn't make the bus before five so we drove down and it always is quite an expedition.

It was a fairly nice day and warm, 50 in Calgary and no snow on the road after we left Banff, even saw a blue-bird going and coming near Canmore, might have been the same one, it was in the same part.

Left later than usual so as not to make it such a long day, but did a few things ~~heee~~ first, shopping and the bank and post office etc. put up a lunch and tea and off we went, having lunch before we reached Cochrane. Thought we should go and see Pete's Aunt Maggie first even if it was after one as we hadn't seen her since September, found her looking quite well and a real family gathering as the granddaughter and two little girls were up from Lethbridge and another lady there too. Had a nice visit with them all, then down to the very center of Calgary to the new Parkade. A wonderful 4 story building with ramps for parking cars. It was built by the Hudson's Bay Co. and has a glassed in walk above the street from the car place to the store, but anyone can park there for 15¢ an hour or less and for as long as you want by paying more. All very easy, you go in off the street and as you cross a line a ticket pops out of a vending machine which you take, and then you just drive on up a ramp which winds around and has generous parking places on either side, easy to drive in or back out of without help and you go on round and get on the ramp down to get out. But if it is stormy you don't have to worry as you are under cover all the way into the store and can even have your parcels sent out to

a place you can pick them up on the way out with the car, We were quite impressed.

Anyway we decided even if it was early to just see if there was a chance to ~~get~~ see the doctor before 3.30, Pete went to have his glasses adjusted at the Optical Co. in the basement of the Medical Arts Bldg. while I went to DrCorrell's office upstairs. The nurse was very nice and said I might as well wait, so I waited, the lady next to me had drops put in to dilate her pupils a couple of times, she was there before me but in the end I went in before she did. Pete came and then went across town to get some photographic things, Must have been quarter of 3 when he left, The actual testing took about 5 or 10 minutes, they have new machines you just look through while the doctor manipulates lenses and at the same time throws the letters on a screen to focus on. took so little time I could hardly believe it. He wrote out a prescription and I went on down to the man who fitted Pete's trifocals so well. Had to wait about 15 minutes there and spent another 15 with him. He said quite a few people come and say they aren't satisfied with the examination the doctor gave them, he was too quick. So Mr Humphreys asks "aren't your glasses satisfactory" "Oh yes they are alright but I don't think the doctor gave me a thorough enough test." They seem sort of disappointed not realizing that with the new things to look with it must have speeded things up ten times. I was back at the car by 3.45 but Pete was the one who took longer. We were home before dark so it was a good trip; Evidently all I need is a little correction for close work, not glasses to wear all the time.

Eldon Walls was in that evening and yesterday we had Pete Tasker at noon and Verne in the afternoon. It was a funny day for it snowed hard one time and bright sun the next. Today it looks a bit wintry, no bare ground showing, an inch of fresh snow and about 20, It was warm yesterday but not enough sun to melt things. We waxed 6 of the Indian paintings and have them all ready but want to take color pictures outdoors before taking them back, feel the color is more accurate outside, but have to wait for a day the roof etc. isn't dripping. The Indian boy may come up to-day we don't know.

Seeing that you have scolded me about sending Air Mail. In Canada our postage for ordinary first class mail is 5¢, same to the states, but in Canada all first class mail goes by air where it can and is quicker. However letters to you go to the states and there by train east taking 4 days. If I put on just 2¢ more they go by Air east in the states. and seems to me 5¢ a week or maybe 6¢ isn't too extravagant to answer your questions quicker by 2 or 3 days. But if you prefer after this will send letters ordinary mail, will send this by Air as it will be 3 days since I wrote.

And now to scold you; Why bother housecleaning the attic again. There are lots of things we would like and I am sure Russ and Kitty would, but not one or two at a time. It would be far easier for all of us if when it comes time to look things over we can do it all at once in a week or two perhaps. After all it

took you but 4 days to clean out Grandpas house and look how quick they were in deciding about the things at the Agges, not a thing had to be sold. In a few years Gale and Rusty may be married and that will change their ideas in wanting things. It is quite likely that what wouldn't interest them now would be just what they would like in 5 or 10 years. Even the screens which are lovely and shouldn't be disposed of. If we take anything now we have to pay duty on it all but if things are left to one in a "Will" there is no duty whatever. So just don't go up to the 3rd. floor and then you won't see things to trouble you.

Pete's mother always thought that none of the family were interested in her belongings but last year when she died and the things were divided it was surprising how each one seemed to find a place. The furniture came in so handy for the grandchildren's new homes and even the bric-a-brac and linen was all wanted by someone. *even the kitchen utensils & flower pots!*

Don't you be discouraged, just because you don't want things doesn't mean that the rest of us don't.

Had such a nice letter from Eleanor Johnson after I wrote so will send it to you to read.

Heaps of love and hope your snow is going fast.

Catharine.

P.S. Don't you be afraid to play at the bridge club. after all it was only a couple of months ago you were winning money at the game - isn't it really a game & you play mostly for fun?

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. April 8, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Just a very hurried letter to-day, Linnie and Jonnie are both here and Pete is busy developing a film and soon we are going up to the Morants house to check the melting snow, it is a lovely day, warm and sunny, well, 40 above anyway and it seems warm. Our trouble is what melts in the day freezes at night.

Your Air Mail reached us yesterday and we did feel so sorry to hear about Mr Sohler, I had no idea he was nearly 80 though maybe we did speak of it last fall. It will be hard for Mrs Sohler for they did so much together but am glad she has so many friends like Mrs French and the Chambers etc. As soon as I get a chance will write but we have had rather a hectic time lately, especially the last couple of days.

Your letter written and mailed the 4th of April came to-day, the Air Mail mailed Thurs. April 5th. came yesterday Sat. the 7th. so it really does take half the time, by air.

Am glad the book reached you, *"True remembrances"* funny you should have it for us, we would still like it as we hadn't time to read it before sending it to you and think the Painters would like it. The part about Gordon Delfridge I thought Cousin Bert would be interested in, knowing them, and I really think Cousin Kathie would be very interested. Maybe she too is a little like that and would have loved to have lived in a castle, she could have handled one with grace. *"Maybe in sending 'Never a Dull Moment' would like any of Canadian books you give away."*

"We would really love to read Mercelia's letters" from Washington and I promise to send them right back. That kind of letter I am pretty good about returning and we have enjoyed Mable Browns, another came to-day but haven't had a chance to read it yet. Will read it to Pete and then return it, he finds he can read just so much if he is using his eyes for other things.

Friday we were pretty busy. The Joe Kingmans came about 9.30 A.M. and we asked them to bring her son and Mother to tea about 3, they were coming up from Calgary on the morning train and all going back on the late train to-gether and the Kingmans had been skiing at Temple. Then I cleaned the living room as last time we had company noticed a lot of dust on the main table and decided it was time I dusted a bit. When we had the Blood Donors Clinic which we thought was at 2 but it didn't start until 2.30 which made it a little hurried for us. However we managed to each give out a pint, have the cup of coffee and rush home in time for the Kingmans, 219 gave blood this time which is quite a lot for a town this size of just over 2500 I guess.

We were busy showing the Kingmans the Indian

Will have to finish all about this later as it is time
to go.

Heaps of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. April 11, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Pete has gone to the dentist, annual check up and I am starting some stew so thought it a good uninterrupted chance to write you. We have had so many people lately from all over that I am all mixed up, also the weather has been extra nice and so we have been outside more, *Not a cloud in the sky & a nice spring sun*

Friday was the afternoon we went to the Blood donors and then the Kingmans from Minneapolis came to tea with her mother from Calgary and little boy. The Sowdons dropped in too and I gave them left over tea while Pete was showing others the pictures up stairs in the studio, they wanted to tell me about their winter in Honolulu. and after they left Dr Wilmot came to ask if he could bring his son down, He was 30 years in west China teaching and son just returned from a year or more in Indonesia. All a bit confusing. We went up to the Wards that night.

Saturday the usual cleaning and shopping for the weekend and the Wilmo~~ss~~s came in the afternoon, it was dull and not too nice so a good thing for them to do. With them was a Dr Phelps, son of the famous Dr Phelps of Yale, and this one had been in China many years and now in Berkeley, California. He was most interested in painting and everything Chinese and they were all such keen people, Mrs Wilmot being a teacher too. After a while Dr Wilmot ~~went~~ back for his son, daughter-in-law and grandson. the latter 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and had a bold so they let him sleep as long as possible. The young Wilmo~~ss~~s had been in Indonesia, mostly Java working on his thesis and now are going to Newfoundland, he to be a Prof. of Sociology in the Univ. there. After two hours of talking we were a bit tired.

Sunday was a lovely spring day and we spent most of the morning copying the Indian paintings which we have here to wax. We took them outside hoping to get better color, Pete took a couple of shots with Ektachrome, then I took 2 and one Kodacolor, we had a real system. but much carrying in and out of paintings & cameras. Took us until lunch time and we took more in the direct sunlight after lunch. Jonny came over and we sat in the sun for half an hour, Then Lynn~~ie~~ arrived with some drawings and after gingerale etc. we drove up by the Morants and took L. home. Then after an early supper we tried developing the roll of color that Pete took. It was quite exciting for it is the first one we have done. The temperatures have to be just right of the various mixtures. Especially the first one. It has to be exactly 75 degrees and can't vary more than half a degree in either direction. One keeps them the right temperature by putting the solutions in a tray of water just right. First Pete had to mix all the stuff at about 80 degrees.

There were six different solutions and the water for washing had to be right too, all between 73 and 77 degrees. Then he loaded the film in the dark, the rest could be done in

light luckily. Only mistake was the 2nd. solution which was in the pan of water but he had an electric light on near it and the heat from that raised the temperature several degrees but by the time we realized it it was too late to do anything. You put it in one for 10 minutes, then wash for one minute, then in something else 3 and another 5 and the next 8 and so it goes, takes 50 minutes once you start and we ~~da~~ aren't stop to peek to see what was happening. luckily the Morants told us the color wouldn't show until it was dry so we had to wait until next morning to know, but it came out alright. Now we are waiting to compare it with the ones done professionally. *I sent my rolls to Vancouver*

Monday was a very busy afternoon. Pete had to patch the shed roof and Mr Lonsdale came at 3 for an hour and tea and then we were just going out when Mary Lee and Penny Warren came after school, so took them with us. Saw Rita for 15 minutes and did an errand and were back after 5 expecting Penny's mother to pick her up. She and the husband came. Pete was back on the roof so he sort of watched Pete but she came in and though at first I didn't offer her anything after standing in the hall and talking she seemed to want to visit so I said to come in and he came too and we thought they would never go. It was six when they left. They are Irish and looking after a place for another Irishman. Then I mounted the colored slides all evening, so we could look at them in the projector.

Tue

Tuesday, yesterday I wrote Mrs Sohler and another letter but that was all I had time for before we went out and in the afternoon it was so lovely we decided to go up to Norquay as

Pete wanted to take an outdoor film to develop with the stuff all mixed. It was lovely - As we came back met the Birds coming to Banff on their way to give an Audubon lecture in Calgary on Newfoundland. They came for tea & stayed until 7. I got so interested I seems he took movies for the Methodist Mission in China in the 1920's - I may have known the Willets there 30 years ago (she is a younger 2nd wife) - here the Willet son is going to Newfoundland, we are going to telephone them about the lecture. The Birds fly to Bermuda for 6 weeks

to take a movie before returning to Banff

As I was writing this Pearl came & took Pearl Moore with a Lady from North Borneo. She has been out there from England, something to do with education. Sugar Jones Reith who wrote "Land Below the Wind" but is not there now. Lives in Victoria I think. You sent us the book & have it too. It was rather long. She prints a bit too. Am finishing this in the jeep while Pete gets stuff to patch roof on shed.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sat. April 13, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

What weather you are having and what a lot of snow. I think we are better off having our snow at Christmas and now it has been the most beautiful week of sunny weather. The last two afternoons I have been outside without even a sweater on and have quite a bit of a sunburn. Have been polishing the brass and copper which I usually leave until the end of the spring cleaning, but now have it all done. A good outdoors job. Hate to stay in when it is so sunny and bright. We also have patched the roof with real good patches. I helped Pete do that and his afternoon Steam Watt came and fixed the valleys. There were a couple of holes in the metal which he welded *from digging*
ice off last winter.

Steam (or Bob Watt is his real name) is a good friend. the son of the plumber and a good plumber too. He enjoyed it on the roof with the sun and balmy air, then we had coffee and talked photography, he is very interested in all the experiments that Pete likes to make with old cameras and lenses, and in the end went home and came back with a copper tube he made up to the dimensions Pete gave him. The right size was the same as the inside cardboard tube of a roll of toilet paper which amused Steam, off he went with the roll to measure by. Said he couldn't have slept until he found out whether he could make the right thing Pete wanted! Not often you get the plumber to make the parts for the camera, Verne too has been helping adapt different size films to other cameras, he does very nice woodwork.

What a time you have all had with the snow and the Daniels Wedding must have been quite a worry for them and then Russ and Mitty giving a nice spring party and too much snow for the majority to make it to Concord. What a lot of people must have been stuck. Guess we are really lucky, but then we can have a blizzard in May quite easily. With such a lovely April I wouldn't be surprised if May was real cold and snowy. We still have a lot of snow, it was so firmly packed it melts slower than fresh snow. and there were drifts as well as piles but we have a number of patches of bare ground and you can see it is going.

Saturday - Hardly worth sending this. A lovely day again. Will have to think up jobs outdoors - It's too lovely to stay in.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Mon. April 16, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Your nice letter of the 12th came to-day with the nice ones of Mercelia's to read. What a fine vacation for her and how much she was able to do and see. I remember when we saw the Peacock room of Whistlers, the National Gallery wasn't built in those days, and when we were at the Smithsonian news came of 'res. Coallidge's death. She seemed to enjoy all the beauty more than most.

You ask about the deer, the dogs here seldom chase them, either they are so used to them they don't bother or else the ones who have chased them in the past are either chained up or shot by the Game wardens, for naturally in a National Park it is against the law to chase the wild animals, though of course they are still allowed to chase the people! ~~xxx~~ Dogs are no longer allowed to run loose and must be on a leash etc. but sometimes they do get out. There is a fine if caught, \$10. and can be quite expensive. The deer here stand their ground when chased by little dogs and have a way of striking back very quickly with their front feet, but imagine your deer are smaller. *more timid*.

Must have been fun to watch them but they can do a lot of damage to gardens, in fact you can't raise but certain flowers without having a fence. They love tulips and just nip off the whole thing to the ground, Larkspur and monkshood and nemesia are a few things they don't touch, but they will eat the poppies and love columbine.

You should be getting wonderful weather pretty soon if what we have had goes east. We had over a week of the loveliest spring days, yesterday, Sunday was so warm and sunny but to-day though 34 to start out with was overcast and soon it started to rain, then huge snowflakes and back to rain all afternoon. the first steady rain since last fall. It was so dark we couldn't paint.

I am just as mixed as you are about the books. I think I wrote that I had sent the book " True Remembrances " (I think that is the name of the British Architects book about building houses for Churchill and Selfridge Castle etc.) Then you wrote that it was funny you had the book to send us. Maybe you wrote the wrong title, so then I said that was alright, for we hadn't read it before sending it to you. Reason I sent it to you was because I thought the Newburys would enjoy reading it before going to England on account of the Selfridge part. Think that the Manierres would enjoy it as Sam visited the Selfridges when he went to London years ago I think. At least he looked them up.

It doesn't really matter about the Japanese screens for I don't know if they could be cleaned. think it must have been the gas and soot at Grandpas that got them so dirty. They say here with the Natural gas that the pilot light going all the time on the stoves and the open flame in time makes a soot over the kitchen. We have gas heat in the furnace but not for cooking. Think you did well to find people to give them too, like Kitty's friend and David Little.

About the books, any ones on Canada that we have sent I would be interested in having sometime. Just write their title & authors.

We don't take the New Yorker any more.

I should think Mrs Sohier would be very lost without Mr Sohier, they did so much to-gether, but I don't think he could have gotten on hardly at all without her, Leuky she has so many good friends.

We were sorry to hear that George Foss is no better and had to go to a nursing home, but perhaps if there are other congenial people there it won't be too lonely, for I don't suppose many people dropped in to see him at home.

Just found your letter about the books. You wrote you were looking over old books (I wish you could list some of the ones you are giving away for there are quite a number I would like in the various rooms, never thought you were disposing of them or would have written in the ones we would like in case you got one of those clearing up moods. Guess it is too late now .)

In this letter you wrote " yesterday came the charming book True Remembrances from you and I had one all ready to go to you." and I tok it you mean't the same book, now I realize it must have been " Never a Dull moment " which came the other day.

The clipping about the Seagram collection of pictures was last year, maybe the year before, we didn't get down but it must have been rather interesting to see, quite an idea.

Had a letter from Tibby Browne who is the wife of George Browne, son of Belmore Browne who painted the background of the bear group at the Science Museum and died soon after of Cancer. They lived in Banff, still come back in summer to the mountains. But the younger Brownes are now living in Connecticut in the Berkshires. She wrote that Geroge has had a very successful winter, sold everything he has painted and his prices have gone up and he can't keep up with his commissions. He paints mostly birds, like ducks and geese with landscapes I think. It is good to know that his work is in such demand for he is a good painter. they will be back here in June.

Your letters have been wonderful and we are so glad that you are feeling better and able to do more and are in demand at the bridge club. Am sure you don't make many mistakes and after all it is the pleasure of playing to gether that counts.

Bed time so all for now, Lots of love,

Catherine

Just had a mosquito bite me on the arm, or start to and yesterday there was a battery.

Barry
Alberta

April 21, 1956

Dearest Mother,

I'm getting behind again with my letter writing. Pete is seeing someone so I thought I'd at least start a letter while sitting in the car.

Our weather has changed suddenly, though the barometer is high. A north ~~west~~ wind this morning & it is dark & threatens rain. Supposed to be sunny again tomorrow but I rather doubt it.

We went to Calgary again on Thursday (had dentist appointments Wed. & Fri. ^{in Banff}) so I thought it a good idea to go while weather was good. Took our lunch which we ate on top of Calhoun Hill. a beautiful view for miles over the valley with the Rockies right across the horizon to the west. Even found a few crocus. Just spring wild flower. They are really

avenues. Then to the Parkade in the Center of Calgary. Has made going to the city so easy. New one way streets make the traffic less.

I got my glasses properly adjusted on my nose & did a few exams. Pete got two tanks for developing color film. He rolls & also cut film. Then to the Art Gallery & back to see Aunt Maggie Grayson.

She is blind & we tried to help by having her see a doctor we know but she has both glaucoma & ~~a~~ Cataracts & her age of 84 or so is against her. But he fixed her throat & ear & she seemed quite well & bright. Lives with a daughter Stella & the husband Billie is retired & had Sciatica. So we stayed for tea & a nice visit. Home by 7 P.M. We find the new Jeep makes the trip seem easy

This summer they are to start on the new Trans-Canada Highway - the part between Calgary & Banff Park Gate. It will cross the river just west of Calgary & cross the Moley Indian Reserve - all new country & not a town or hardly a settlement all the way. It will be 80 miles, an easy 2 hours to the city then. Of course it will take 2 or 3 years to be built. The Indians are clearing the right of way now.

Yesterday was quite busy - A little weary after the day in Calgary. Then Eldon Wells was over with Pete's Income Tax & other business matters. Verne & I were with a cold so he didn't put the other coat on the front stairs. Pete did later. I went to the Dentist for a 2nd filling. When I returned Syd Vallance & Mr. Lonsdale were there. They even helped me with the dishes! We relaxed a bit etc

→ in the evening Nellie & Patsey
McKenzie were down to show us their
slides & Bobby (Young Barbara White)
came with an English girl working
in Calgary. Susan Knight. They
are off shiping this weekend. Bobby
is a dietician at the Holy Cross
Hospital

Don't know if this will
reach you before Newman's leave.
I wrote them yesterday & today
came a lovely letter from
Cousin Alma. Please thank her
for it if there is time. How nice
they are to have a real send off.

In a rush now.

Heaps of love

Catharine

Banff, Alta.
Monday
April 23, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Just a hurried note to-night. Should have written yesterday but though it was a dull day, cold and damp with a north east wind I didn't get much chance, in fact we have had quite a few dropping in lately.

To-morrow the Newburys will be leaving on the big trip, wish we were around to see them off and have a look at Cousin Bert's secret pockets. a good idea just the same. Well I just hope they have wonderful weather everywhere. When does Gale come home?

Will return Mercelia's letters, saved them for Pete to read. We both enjoyed them.

Friday night Nellie MacKenzie with Patsy came down to show us their color slides and Bubby with a friend came later. think I told you this. Then Saturday we were busy as usual, had quite a few people to see and then it was that evening Dr MacKenzie came to tell us that Jackie was in the hospital and very ill, he was afraid he might not live that night, but he was alright and better since, but still can see no one. He hasn't been well all winter, a very troublesome situation and we don't know how it will turn out. Rather worrying and it is hard to settle down to doing anything, Pete is working on an Indian Camp and I have decided to start the housecleaning, for one can be interrupted in that and be glad.

Yesterday morning was dull, did my hair etc. then when we went for the mail just ran up to the Wards as we hadn't seen Sam for over a week, seems the afternoon before when we went up he had been looking for us down here, so we missed each other. Were there until 3.30 and just as we got home Dr and Nellie MacKenzie dropped in, so we made tea and they were still here when Sid works the Bank Manager and his wife came to bring a painting they had borrowed back. They stayed until 5 O'clock, so we had a busy afternoon. Then in the evening about 7.30 Mr Scott came down and he was talking to Pete when Barbara and Jon arrived, Harold following soon after. I think they were sort of worried about Jackie and the whole situation too but with Mr Scott here we just talked about general things. It was nearly 10 when they all left.

Then to-day we felt a bit weary after so many callers. some don't tire you but last night we had to help make conversation as we all had other things on our minds. To-day Pete painted a bit and I dusted sort of half heartedly. Mr Lonsdale came as usual about 3 this afternoon with his paintings and we had tea, were just finishing when Rita Crick and Webby, another lone lady, arrived. so made tea for them too and as they were leaving after 5 Sam came by, had a look at a crack in the basement and it was almost 6 when he went. So you see we have been fairly busy.

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. April 26, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Just a hurried letter as I have to go to the dentist for him to finish up and clean my teeth in an hour. Pete hadn't any holes so he is all through.

We are having a return of wintry weather, but luckily are on the edge of it, is 25° above this afternoon, was just 15° in Calgary and in Edmonton 4° above, Saskatoon zero. It broke records for this time of year, they have light snow or snow flurries but so far we have been missed, but feels very cold in the wind.

Haven't done much that is interesting but yesterday was busy. Sam was down for a short time in the morning then Aileen Harmon just as we finished lunch for a book for us to see. Pete went to the dentist and Uncle Jack Campbell and his son Kenneth were down, while they were here Verne came with a sketch box he was fixing for Pete Tasker, and then Ules LaCasse for a fossil of his he left here, then Pete was back. The Campbells left before three and I cut the dead larkspur there was no time to do before we had winter last fall, then we were just going out when Mr Scott came to borrow clippers and Mrs Arthur Colebrook from B.C. to tell us she would be in Banff this coming week. 8 in all I think. We finally went out to take a few black and whites for Pete to try a new developing tank, it was a lovely afternoon but cold.

Your letter came about the 19th of April Parade I think you were real smart to go and watch and then get in on a children's party with balloons as well, no wonder you were tired but even if you did feel cross the next day, Wasn't it worth it to see those pretty girls with so little on and the floats? I can't remember that they used to have parades on the 19th. only on the big celebrations like the 250th or something, otherwise it was Memorial Day they paraded, but they did used to have balloons and a ball game and wasn't there a band concert when I was real little, I do remember it was the first day of spring one wore their new straw hat with the wreath of flowers and the dark blue spring coat with the sailor collar.

It is nice for you to have Mrs Sohler over for meals, I bet you both eat better for being together. Remember how Mrs Cole next to Aunt Julie used to have a teacher live with her each year, that might be an idea and if they could get some one to get the evening meal for them all, it would be company for Mrs Sohler and not any extra work. It is quite a house and place to keep up *alone*.

The other day I was speaking to a Mrs Harmon who's husband died about 10 or more years ago. They used to go somewhere every year and she still does for about 5 months in the winter, has been to Honolulu, Barbados, South Africa etc. but she says it is so hard to find the right kind of person to go with, either they don't enjoy what she does or something. She was in La Jolla, California this winter for 3 months, said there people are talking of what they will do in their old age. Several religious groups like the Presbyterians and I have forgotten the others, have bought up big hotels or apartment houses and are making them into sort of homes, where even couples can live, have maybe two rooms and a place to cook with bath, but also a central dining room and medical care if needed. there are other schemes where people pay up to \$30,000. to get in for the rest of their lives, whether they live one year or 30. I guess with the problem of getting help and when people don't want the care of a house or grounds and maybe are alone, it is a good idea. They are not places like institutions but where people like Aunt Julie, or Mrs Loring, or Mr Cabot could have gone.

In Calgary they are building a little settlement for elderly people, single and couples to live right next the General hospital. Some club is raising the funds and I think now that ones life expectancy is getting longer there will be more and more places for elderly ~~people~~ people to make their homes. Like the Old ladies home in Concord only couples and each with a tiny suite instead of just a bedroom. They wouldn't feel lonely for there are so many others in the same boat. Cousin Harriet would have loved a place like that. It would be nice if they had one in Concord, maybe you could think up a good idea. Would have been better than the big Catholic school. I often thought a lot of little places like the modern motels would be a good idea, should be within walking distance of the town and library and churches etc.

Better wash up to go over town. Have some clipping of the musical festival to send you *later - please excuse that!*

Heaps of love,

Dan Mc Cawen died this spring. I think Pete wrote you about it. Carl Reukius is still alive. Winters in New York. Summers in Banff. Loads of love once more

C

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. April 29, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

We are having what might be called "a touch of winter." Has been cold all week in the twenties and thirties and snow flurries and a cold north wind, Calgary has had it even colder and more snow. Yesterday we had an inch or maybe two which melted during the day, but in Calgary they had 6 inches and 8 in some places. I had an idea we would get a spell of cold weather for that nice sunny warm spell was really quite long and very nice for April. Says on the weather forecast, More snow to-morrow! 8 inches in Calgary and roads very bad. Lucky we went down twice when we did for it was lovely then. If it turned nice we might go to Cowley for a few days.

Seems ages since I wrote, not much going on. Jackie is getting on fine so will probably be out of the hospital in a short time. We had a busy afternoon yesterday, a lot of odd things it seemed. Up to see the MacKenzies, They are going away for a week as Duncan had an extra lot to do last week with Pat Costigan in Edmonton at a Surgeons convention or meeting. They had just found a dear little bird that had flown into their garage and maybe into a wall for it was dead. It was a Ruby crowned kinglet I think for we took it to the Museum with the stuffed birds, but theirs hadn't such a lovely bright vermilion touch on its head. It was yellowish green on its breast. A dear little bird, I had never seen one before. We then drove up to see Sam about the foundation of the corner store where they are putting in a new cement sidewalk, He said he would be down later. Then to Beckers Bungalows to see if they knew when Asta Hauge was arriving for we had a letter saying she was leaving Norway to-day, the 29th. at 4 and arrive in Calgary May 1st. at 10.30 A.M. Makes Norway seem quite near. Then home and an Indian to see if we could take him to the station with his stuff he had bought and collected, so Pete told him to be here about 5. Then Sam to say he had looked at the foundation and we had coffee to-gether, then to the station to see Bunny McGivern go through on the Canadian, she comes from Vancouver Island, has spent winters here and was in Honolulu with Pearl, then back to have Dr Riley and Charlies come as well as the Indian for whom I had made sandwiches, so they all had tea to-gether and much talk, then we got the Indian, Good Stoney down to the train. Jon was over in the evening. and Pearl had been over in the morning.

The Newburys will arrive in France to-morrow, hope they have had good weather on the trip across, we will keep thinking of them in each place, sort of fun. We just had a card from the Links who evidently returned on the same boat and it was posted in New York on the 23rd. and the Newbury's sailed on the 25th. I think. Says it is the Largest and Most luxurious ship ever built in America and the worlds fastest. *The United States is name of boat*

Will send this along and hope to write of something more interesting next time, *Am* listening to an hour's program on St Lawrence

Loads of love, Catharine.

*29 on way
to England
now*

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. May 2, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

This is just a short note as I seem to be rather disorganized and have several other letters I should be writing. Wonder did I write Sunday, It was a miserable sort of day, we thought we would have Mrs Colebrook for tea, but found she hadn't come to Banff for her visit as yet so called up Doris Blow who has just lost her husband. We have so many friends this year who have lost husbands, like Mrs Sohler, Mrs Dan McCowan, Mrs Jack Brown and another, all of them people who lived close together as a couple, Mrs Colebrook too. Doris Blow is younger, about our age and has two daughters, one still in School. She was very glad to come down and really seemed to enjoy it. Funny part was that we discovered that her sister married a boy who used to come skiing at Skoki 20 or more years ago and they live in Tofino and just love it. He is still in the Air Force. I think Sunday if it is dismal is a hard day for people.

That night Barbara and Jonny came over quite early, Pete was doing something in the dark room and then about 9.30 just when they would have been going home, Edmee Moore came. She hasn't been here for months and always comes late as their hours are so different from most people. Charlie goes back to the drug store after a late dinner and she is used to going to bed at midnight or later, so 9 or 9.30 seems early. Barbara and Jonny went home before ten but it was after 11 when Edmee went. We had been up before 7 so were a bit weary and not much pep next morning. Started to clean our big bedroom & went over town, Verne was down and we did a number of odd things. That evening we listened to the C.B.C. Symphony Concert which Murray Adaskin, (an old friend who used to be at the Banff Springs and is now head of the music Dep't. at the Univ. of Saskatchewan) was conducting. They played two of his compositions, then part of Milhaud's London something or other and then a short one of Murray's. It was an hour long concert and he seemed to conduct with great feeling, the music was modern but we enjoyed it especially knowing Murray. Had it not been for that would have gone to a showing of slides of England that Syd Vallance gave, but we did want to record Murray's music if possible.

Yesterday was one of those days. I wanted to put a glass coat on a big bookcase upstairs and one downstairs we had made last year, so dusted the books all ready and washed both bookcases, Pete was working on one of the funeral paintings when Eldon called in. He is just over the Income Tax season as the forms had to be in Monday and said he wanted to get out of the office but do something pleasant so came to see us which we considered quite a compliment. We haven't wanted to bother him lately about business or store questions so it was a good chance to talk. Then we just had time to get fresh meat etc. and the mail. Were just finishing our dinner when Jakob Two youngman and his wife Annie Beaver arrived from Morley. They had eaten so we just visited. and later drove them up to see the new road being built west.

They told us rather an amusing story. Seems all the young Indians have been working on the slashing of the new road through the reserve, part of the Trans-Canada, and the Indians were paid last

week. Jake and Annie went to a hockey game one night in Calgary and there were a great many other Stoenjes there too. They were quite surprised to see so many friends. When they started home it was rain and sleet and they drove very carefully, about 25 miles an hour, and cars kept passing them, each one full of Indians. Seems as soon as they were paid for the road work they all went to Calgary and bought cars. When the Two youngmen got to the Ghost River they could see a line of red lights all the way up the big hill on the other side. All stuck evidently, so Jake waited for a while but they were still having trouble getting up the Hill ahead. Finally Jake decided to try it, so he drove carefully and got up past all the long line of cars with little trouble and passed them all and went on his way. I don't know whether the others finally managed to push each other up but guess they did and went tearing by Jake again who was still going slowly. When he got to Morley there on the steep hill to the station was the line of red lights, all stuck again on that hill. some turning round and having quite a time for the cars were all new to the drivers and guess they went at the hills too fast. So Jake waited nearly an hour and watched and finally once more he thought he might as well try it, and up he went with no trouble at all and passed them all. It really is a shame they put their money into cars like that for the dealers in Calgary just unload all the old second hand cars on the Indians and they must spend an awful lot on repairs ~~XXXX~~ ever after.

We were just home again when the Vallances arrived. Not to stay but they did come in and Syd was very interested in the experiments Pete has been making with the cameras. They must have been here half an hour. Then I got the book cases done. Oh, yes we just had time to wash the dishes between the Indians and the Vallances. and time to glow coat the bookcases between the Vallances and Jonny after school and five young ladies. Patsy MacKenzie. Lona Becker. Mary Lee and Penny and Gloria Riva. They were sort of lost on such a miserable day so we had gingerale and toast and much talk about teenage affairs & what they are all going to do this summer. Mr Warrnecame for Penny and Mary Lee and Lona so we took Patsy and Gloria home, but it was quite a day and I was glad to read the paper and not do much else last night.

It is still cold and a north east wind. Our "cold Front" that blew in ten days ago has never blown out and just stays stuck here. Haven't even gotten the leaves raked up yet. but the river is open.

Didn't mean to write so much, Hope you are having spring now though seems to me last letter from you was about no e snow.

Heaps of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Friday, May 4, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Am writing this while a prize fight is going on over the radio, Pete is listening in preference to some awfully modern and monotonous music from the Edinburgh Festival, a sawing violin, I turned the fight on, but goodness knows how it will effect this letter !

What fun it is to think of the Newburys, they have already "seen" Paris, must be on the sleeping car to Nice, almost there. Do hope the weather is better than here. How is it in Concord ? We had a lovely sunny day yesterday and a promise of more seasonable weather, still a cold wind from the north but the sun so warm it felt nice. To-day back to overcast and still the wind in the wrong direction. They are blaming it on a disturbance from Oregon. Haven't had it warm enough to even rake the lawn, it was too wet that previous hot spell.

Ules has been here cutting out 8 spruce trees. We have to do a few each year as the Government object. But it does give more light in certain places and the other trees get more chance to branch out. Actually you would hardly know any had gone. Ules is so quick and neat. They are great tall trees but he can fell them just where he means to and takes all the branches off - cuts the tree in length and to-day hauled the branches away.

Have had a lot of company lately, mostly business but not entirely, But rather a mixture. Tom Kaquits came this noon as we were washing up our dinner dishes. Last time we gave him a dollar for his lunch over town and then discovered he had eaten it early at the Mt Royal with Pearl Moore, so this time when he said he was going ~~for~~ over town to get his dinner, we didn't bite. He added that he always eats at 1.30 now, finds it agrees with him better and his supper at 7.30. Rather stylish hours we thought. However he did ask me if I had an aspirin for his throat was sore, so I got him that and a glass of water. He is quite an Indian.

We also had Peter Tasker the game warden with a sketch he had made, his first attempt and it was really very good, think he shows promise, he draws well and nice color and feeling.

Before I forget, we had the notice about the new opening show at the Art Centre in Concord. One show I would really like to see. Eliot O'Hara's water colors of the Canadian Rockies. I think he was here last year but we didn't know about it. Do tell us what they are like and the Chinese ones too. Maybe you will like one well enough to make a purchase.

When does Gale come home ? Maybe she is waiting for Claire to get married. Haven't heard any Buttrick news for ages.

It is now Saturday morning and another dull day, says sunny and warm to-morrow but it was snowing when we woke up, is 40 and melting but a few flakes coming down and misty looking. should be nice soon. One would think it a good chance to get things done indoors but somehow one hasn't much ambition this kind of weather and so far haven't made any headway. Of course we have had a lot of interruptions. and for the next week or two expect quite a bit of talk and decisions about the store. Looks as if Jackie would have to let the business go, is in debt to so many firms for merchandise they are all beginning to press him. No one wants to buy a business in debt. But it is up to him to decide not us. He has been in the hospital two weeks and Pat Costigan says is better now that he has seen him for years, but we are afraid this problem may set him back again. It is all their own fault for the way they have done things so not much any of us can do but wait until they decide what is best to do. Eldon who looks after all our things is just through the Income Tax season (as we call it) and is going away until Thursday and we won't do a thing without him.

Better go over now for the weekend shopping, I have done the weekly dusting etc. Pete is working on one of the Indian Camps. Hard for him to dash off pictures with these other things coming up, just hope it gets settled before summer.

Heaps of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. May 6, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Will just start a letter as Jonny is here and he and Pete are reading, one on either side of me, but right now neither are talking but quite often Jonny will read something out loud and it is apt to interrupt my train of thought considerably, especially at night. However I will do the best I can.

up Tunnel Not
It has been a lovely spring day at last. Started out overcast and dull but I noticed a bit of blue sky out the bathroom window and it sort of spread right across the sky. For a long time was clear on the north side of the house and all cloudy on the south, but gradually cleared all over and the sun lovely and warm. We went out to finish a roll of film and try out some lens that Pete is adapting for Syd Vallance. There was no wind and all the sounds from the village came up to us so clearly, the carillon was being played at the English church, a hymn and sounded really nice, childrens piping voices playing and other sounds of a Sunday morning. Then while Pete developed the film I started raking. We have the lawn at the front side and back done, so it will have a chance to grow now *before* the leaves are out. In one place it was all ice under the deep leaves. Luckily no one came to-day so it was a good chance to be outside. *So* often one just starts and we have callers. *on interrupted at least 10 times during that paragraph.*

Had a busy day yesterday. It was snowing in the morning but turned to a drizzle later and the inch of snow soon melted. We often have snow in the spring like that. Just a fine snow, or a few flakes and maybe an inch or two on the ground in the morning, but it soon melts as a rule. We haven't had but once any real rain since we came back last fall. We too have had a north wind for the last two weeks, even to-day it was west only a short time and then turned round again.

The Newburys are in Nice to-day, hope it was as lovely there. Sort of fun following where they are. I thought that such a real nice letter from Cousin Alma, so sincere, and this is a fine one from Gil too. They must be trying to raise a lot of money, wonderful to get such large contributions. Did you say they were to add on to the hospital?

Did I tell you that Edith sent us the photographs of her family, must write and thank her. They are really good. I have so many I should write but never seem to get started. Now to-night it is after nine. Jonny has gone with Tuppy the dog and we are heading for bed soon.

Shan't worry about you, now that you are back winning at the bridge club, who said you weren't as bright as ever at the game. Why don't you start an extra group and play twice a week. Not a big group but just one table of bridge, seeing that you enjoy it so much. Doesn't Eleanor Johnson and Marian Hudson "ilmott and Charlotte play a lot to-gether, but of course Charlotte is at the library during the day.

Monday. Lovely & clear to-day. Robins up at 4 A.M.
we were up at 6.30. Think we will go out for the
day. Pete wants to try some 4x5 in colour to
try developing ourselves & we haven't taken a
day off so to speak. May go towards Lake Louise.
I have a bunk put up. We are hoping to get
the Jeep fixed up for camping & go to Cowley
for a few days but because of business
at the store & the question of what they will
do have to make or less stick around. Eldon
will be back Thursday. then perhaps we can go.

Pete has the film loaded & is ready.
Am enclosing a picture of how I look at
night writing you.

Heaps of love

Catherine

Banff, Alta.

Sat, May 12, 1956

Dearest Mother,

We have first one day nice, then a couple of days with rain or snow squalls, but we have been lucky, think it was yesterday it snowed within a 50 mile radius of Calgary and last week they had a regular blizzard in Pincher Creek and Cowley, in the paper said 18 to 24 inches to 2 feet of snow in some places. We are just hoping the Campbells are allright. For this is calving time and they have quite a time. Try to keep the cows about to calve in the corral for other wise they are apt to lose the calf. It is a real worry in this kind of weather. Right now it is hailing hard outside.

Your letter yesterday with the two from the Newburys. It must have been great fun with so many to see them off and a real experience for Bill and Sam too. It sounded lots of fun. Could just see them in Paris, so glad they had a nice day and the flowering shrubs all out. must have been real spring in Paris. the loveliest time of year. They will be in Rome this weekend. Do send us all their letters for we love to read them. and can return the ones you want back. Let the others read them first if you like. *Have sent these 2 to Cousin Jane to hear -*

Seems as if I hadn't really written you all week, as usual we were quite busy. Monday we took the day off and a lunch and drove up to Lake Louise, It was a perfect day and some lovely clouds but not enough to make it hard taking pictures. Pete wanted to try some 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 color pictures to see what luck we had developing them in a new tank we just got. We went to Lake Louise first, took 3, of course there wasn't much color but blue, Then to Wapta and the Kickhorse where they are blasting out a new road going down to the Yoho. It is really terrific what they do. The road is only open at certain hours. Then we went up the Jasper highway for 16 miles & found the first ten in good shape the next 6 not bad and with snow on the ground it looked very nice and none of the scars of building. It is a wide road with good shoulders so you can now park a car on the side anywhere for photographs and there will be a 24 foot paved part I guess. The whole road is 44 feet I think. Seems wide and it is cleared back on either side so you get great sweeping views, not as lovely as some parts of the old road with the trees on either side, but with so much traffic and some fast drivers and others who would pull up right behind you waiting for a straight stretch to pass, this new road will be much better and ~~safer~~ safer and one can see the mountains much better and in time it too will grow pretty.

It was a lovely day for us and we were out 8 hours, We found later that a whole lot of Indians were here and waited for us quite a long time. Barbara saw them and gave them an old bed and Verne was down when they were here too. That evening Jimmy Simpson was over and we had a long talk & nice visit. They are hoping that they have a good summer as the last 2 years the roadbuilding has made it hard for them.

This week we have raked a lot of lawn, got the ~~new~~ boxes fitted into the new Jeep, Verne coming one afternoon and a morning. I have cleaned the old little bedroom and the front one, so we moved the bed and are sleeping in the front one again. a lot of moving things about. Not too much company. Had it been nice we would have started packing the camping things in, but no use going anywhere this kind of weather. It is not unusual for May and the good days make up for the poor ones.

The Indians are cutting the right of way for the new road from Calgary to Banff and so Frank Kaquits who took the painting lessons is working on that. He may be able to go to the summer school this year so that would give him a lot of experience, It is not natural for the Plains Indians to paint or draw, I expect because they were really nomads and moved round too much, porcupine quill work was about all they did in the way of decoration. In New Mexico and Arizona where they lived in Pueblos and in one place for generations they ~~developed~~ sand painting and decorated caves etc. or river banks and walls and so developed more of a sense of drawing.

We have been out for an hour, taking some tulips to Cis Ward and Asta, it is the only time they have a lot in Banff, the weekend of Mother's day. Joch had lovely ones sent from the coast, all colors and gave each person shopping there, 6, which was rather nice. *that is in the grocery store*

I am so stupid this afternoon, must be the weather, it has been snowing but melting as it falls, the most miserable looking day, I should start and answer letters but feel too stupid to do that.

Thanks again for the Newburys letters, what fun they had in New York. the skating must have been amusing to watch at Rockefeller Center, and Cousin Bert was so amusing about the money, I can just see him and appreciate his difficulties. *would love to hear him tell about it all.*

What a large family Mrs Cochrane has, I remember a letter from her one summer that you sent us to read, full of grand grandchildren. By the way, what do you hear from Gale? When is she coming home or is she to stay over all summer. Does she still write those wonderful letters?

Almost time to get supper.

Heaps of love,

Calgarvie

7.5, Sunday - Yesterday after the snow & hail it cleared into a clear & cold evening. a heavy frost this morning. We went out after supper to try to get a few pictures but the color wasn't very good. Today warmer & sunny but not very clear sort of hazy -

Banff, Alta.
Thurs. May 10, 1956

Dearest Mother,

This will be very hurried, I was so concerned over first news of Cousin Jane having an operation forgot all about this letter from Mabel Browne, have had it two days only. Mildred wrote after the operation so just hope all goes well and that she does see more later on.

We are having another lovely spell of weather and between spring cleaning in the morning and raking in the afternoon it keeps me busy. Yesterday Pete wanted to try some color shots of the canoes and boat house, there were a few clouds and took endless patience to wait for sun on the subject. Then we loaded more film & I made up a sandwich and soup and we went out to watch the men working with the big yellow, red, and blue bulldozers hoping to get some good color in those, but they weren't working where we could get them in the sun. It was most interesting to watch however.

Now Verne is here fitting the boxes into this new Jeep and after I mail this and do some glo-coating upstairs will get to my raking.

Will maybe write to-night a better letter.

Would love one copy of "Japan Day by Day" if you have it.

Heaps of love,

P.S. Newburys are in Naples.

Catharine
→ Amalfi Drive today
The enclosed was a broadcast from Calgary 2 weeks ago. We just happened to turn radio on when someone mentioned "Lester Museum" so sent for copy for you -

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. May 16, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Just another of those short hurried letters for it is such a lovely day I can't bear to stay in and there is plenty of raking to be done, Pete is trying to finish up the Indian Camp for Henry Kingman and as this coming weekend is a holiday one, we have decided to stay here until afterwards as the roads will be crowded etc,

Three nice letters from you, with the one from Nice of Cousin Almas, they are in Florence to-day. It is nice that Russ and Kitty could go up to Port Hope for the celebrations, hope they didn't run into the awful storms from the middle west. I bet you are having the two weeks of cold weather we had previously and soon you should get the lovely spring weather of this last week.

Had quite a day on Sunday, did odd things ^{packed part of Jeep} in the A.M. then after lunch went up to take colored pictures of the MacKenzies, only Duncan and Nellie and the two girls were home so took them, when we got back Larrie Simpson was here, (young Jimmy's wife) to tell us the jam they got into about one of the apartments, a woman telling Larrie she was to have it and Eldon had already told her she couldn't. While she was still here some Indians arrived. They are clearing the road right of way near the park gate so are camped at Canmore. We gave them tea, then had supper ourselves and Mr Scott arrived for a bit of a visit. But we wanted to develop the color film that night so he didn't stay long. Takes about 2 hours ^{in all} by the time you get all the chemicals and water to the right temperature and it is 1½ hours to do the film itself. They came out very well.

We had a wire Sunday saying that a Mr & Mrs Reynolds of Lisbon Portugal were arriving Monday on the Canadian and would we look them up, friends of the Panets in Montreal. We also had Merrill Cruikshank coming through from the west, He is the one who has been in Fiji for about 6 years and now going to Australia, So I spent the A.m. tidying the house. Mr Lonsdale came with his sketches at 2, we met the Reynolds at 3 and Merrill at 4, then to the hotel to pick up the Reynolds and bring them here for tea and a drive until about 7 P.M. Saw all sorts of ducks and some animals. Arranged for them to come around yesterday morning after they had been to the museum. We were busy sorting out things for the Jeep so by 11 ready to take them for another drive. Left them for their lunch and did a few things ourselves and then picked them up again for another short tour until train time. They were an unusually nice couple. She an American from Spokane and he Portuguese by his looks. educated at Oxford and they have a cork farm or whatever it is called. Have to be back for the "cork strip" in June. It happens every ten years.

After they left we had to look for Eldon etc. and he came around after supper. else I might have written last night.

The desk in the picture is in the kitchen between the two windows, I use it mostly at night so the light isn't too bad. Pete was just trying out a lens.

The book you mentioned I can't quite remember but maybe you better save it for us or send it back sometime. "and all Your Beauty" is the title you said. What were their authors last names?

Seems to me you are winning quite a lot at bridge!

Must write a couple of other letters and then go out.

Heaps of love,

Catharine

got Claire's wedding' invitation. nice Gals can be there

which is Senior Willard Road? I forget.

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. May 18, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

I am not doing at all well in writing you this week, expect because the weather has been so nice since last Sunday, real summer and over 70 yesterday and to-day, we have long evenings at this time of year so it is very tempting to go out for a drive when the color is nice. It was the cold last Saturday night that must have cleared the air and just hope it lasts until over this weekend for it is Empire Day Monday, used to be the 24th of May when we celebrated Queen Victoria's birthday but now they just call it Empire Day and have it the first monday before the 24th. so as to make a long weekend for people in the spring.

We haven't done a great deal this week. Had the people from Lisbon Portugal Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, then we half expected a man from Calgary on business but didn't see him, Eldon did and came round to tell us about it that evening. Then Wednesday Pete tried to start painting again to finish up an Indian Camp he has promised but it is often hard to get going once you have stopped for a while. I had letters to catch up on and in the afternoon Rita came over and I made tea and never did the raking I meant to.

Yesterday, Thursday was warm, real hot and I raked a good two hours, Oh I remember, Wednesday afternoon Sam dropped in and then Dan MacDonald who came to see if Pete would fix a sign for his wife, Mrs Oakander. She is the most wonderful person, hearty and so good hearted and Pete was real pleased to think she thought he was the only one who could fix it. So we promised to go there Thursday and see about it. That mean't getting cleaned up a bit which we did and quite a visit with her, Then we came back loaded down with good Scotch Scones that she makes better than anyone, for our supper.

Today we have been busy with all sorts of things and I guess being outside makes me sleepy, for I didn't do some more raking, this afternoon. One thing that happened, very sad, was a little squirrel which must have fallen out of a tree when jumping from one branch to another and killed itself. Was while I was raking for I never heard a thing, no dogs to scare it or magpies, but when I went up to dump a load in the wheelbarrow I nearly ran over it. It was lying on it's back with it's feet spread out as if flying and one leg sort of kicked once, but otherwise it was still. and by the time I returned it was dead. Never realized they had accidents like that.

Little Cliffy, aged 3, Bev and young Cliff's boy, was awfully cunning, they have a snow fence round their lawn to keep him in and it was near where I dumped the leaves, When I came along he jumped up and down very much excited, calling "Pete Cat, Pete Cat" to try and tell his mother it was me. He is getting to the very cunning age.

A nice letter from you to-day, about the ride with Miss Barrett, I think the first heat of summer makes anyone feel tired, The way I am to-night, would much rather sit down and read than write letters but it is supposed to be 80 to-morrow so I will want to be out raking again. I figure it is as good exercise as golf and seems a good thing to do as well. We could get a man to do it but I enjoy finding the little trees that are coming up. spruce that have seeded themselves.

I would love to have one of Bunny Coles books, think I know two kids who ~~would~~ would like them. If you wanted to, you could send one to Timmy Campbell, 7C - Ranch, Cowley, Alberta. He is at the age to love to read and also writes a good letter. He has written Morris Longstreth and I think would write you. He must be nine.

I had thought of sending Gil some money for the Hospital Drive and then you wrote they had done so well and I hadn't gotten round to it, so didn't. Now will send it to him even if it is late. Guess the Newburys are in Venice.

Had a short letter from Dorothy Whyte who flew from Vancouver to Amsterdam. We call it over the north pole, but actually it is south of that. She said it was "sun and daylight all the way. Greenland was a bit bleak at 4.30 A.M. their time, midnight ours. It is amazing how quickly the time has gone." (Don't know how many hours it is). She wrote "England looked lovely but Canada was truly a land of sea and snow." Must have been quite an experience!

I owe Francis a letter so will send the check to Gil in that.

Hope Russ and Kitty had a nice trip, we went in the little boat at Niagara Falls last fall on the way east, wonder if they went too. It was really great fun.

Loads of love and expect by now the garden is starting to bloom.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. May 20, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

We are still having good weather, can hardly believe it and each day we figure it is about ready to blow up a storm and it doesn't or hasn't so far. This is the first long weekend holiday of the season. Empire Day, and Banff is just jammed with cars and people, boats on the river and summer just all of a sudden, don't think to-morrow can be as busy.

Just got your nice letter written after the bridge party. Don't wonder you were a bit frightened when you woke to find your arm with no feeling. I often have my hand go to sleep and wake to find it numb but it soon comes back. the way I lie on it I think. and guess you must have sort of paralysed a nerve for a time and being older it took longer to come back. Nice that Hanne knew what to do for it, Seems to me your writing afterwards was just as good as any lady of 90 odd!

Isn't that wonderful news about Cousin Jane, We have been hoping to hear how successful the operation was for she seemed afraid that the retina might be too badly damaged for her to see much more, but with the cataract removed the doctor can also see the condition of the retina behind. But of course she can't tell how much she will see until it is time for her to have glasses. I do hope it all continues to improve.

I will send you a letter that just came from Cousin Bert, it is a bit like one to you but more about the food. Can just imagine how he enjoyed the various things one could have and all included. I guess they don't realize that ordinary mail takes a long time waiting for a mail boat etc. better to write Air Mail. To-day they will be on Lake Maggiore.

We haven't done much that is exciting, had a little trouble with a back tooth and yesterday morning when I went to ask about it the dentist thought I had better have it out. so much of it was filling anyway and when he filled it he thought it might not work and might trouble me, So he just said to wait and did it in between patients. Seems to me it is far simpler to have done than a filling. He froze it first, then went away and one of the girls came and talked a bit, he was soon back and it didn't take a jiffy. He just gave it a little twist and a pull and it was out, told me to bite on some cotton stuff, undid the bit and away I went, Had driven home before I had to spit. However I didn't do the cleaning as usual on Saturdays. Pete was painting and I read a little then we went for the weekly shopping. In the afternoon Syd Vallance came about a camera and later we went up to their house and had tea and it was very pleasant sitting outdoors. Pretty hot in the sun so the shade felt good. Started watering lawns last night and Verner came to get some larkspur and poppy plants after supper and we took him out to see the work on the road.

To-day I cleaned a bit and started to weed the garden or loosen it up a bit, Tom Scott was over and then Mrs Simpson, we kept her for lunch as we had lots of steak, while she was eating I could see some people having a picnic on her lawn and guessed it was her family from Calgary. Barbara came over to tell us they were there. She went back and ~~while~~ we did the dishes, then they all came over. Mrs Simpson's sister Auntie Joe and Bill Stewart, and their daughter who used to be a stewardess on the planes that flew to England, Scotland and Bermuda and the Barbados, She married a man born and brought up in the Barbadoes and they are now living in Calgary. He is a lawyer and this was the first time we had met him. He has a most interesting accent I thought. They were here a while and looked at everything.

Now it is time to mail this, looks a bit like rain. Mr Vigh who cuts our grass came and offered to do the rest of the raking so I have written letters instead of doing that to-day, but should go out and finish the flower plots, and put more water on. it is very dry.

To-morrow is another holiday and Tuesday we have business to attend to, but hope to maybe go out this week. However it could storm and be rainy for a spell.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alta.

Thurs. May 24, 1956

Dearest Mother,

We have had the loveliest weather since a week ago Sunday, like the middle of summer. In the 70's every day and the sun even hotter, Our trees are coming out, the Aspen in tiny leaves the balm of gileads just budding. so it is all feathery looking like spring. The grass very green in spots for a good deal is still sort of winter killed but will come back we hope. It has been so lovely we have spent little time indoors.

This won't be a long letter as Verne is coming with we hope a new bathroom door to put on. One of those doors that is supposed to arrive each day and hasn't, he is telephoning about it. I was going to write you yesterday and then Pete got the urge to clean the shed. He doesn't get it very often so I encouraged him all I could. It is a handy shed and so often when we know someone is coming Pete will take the things that look messy in his ^{work} shop by the back door, old bits of wood, pipe or electric things after the plumber has been here, old magazines and papers etc. and we just put them in the shed out of sight. but as the only time we can really sort the stuff out is either early spring before the wasps and mosquitos, or late fall before it is too cold, we don't always get it done. Didn't last year at all with a late spring and going away in the fall. There was a terrific lot of boxes, (you would have had a fit) including boxes of things from Pete's mother's house. Just as we got started Sam Ward came along having lost his voice so he was glad to sit in the sun and sort screws and bolts etc. He knows better than we do what is worth keeping. "e packed the old magazines and papers in boxes and really had quite a good time. I made tea and we had that outside, it got quite hot and we got lazy but we did manage to get most of it done. Then to-day as luck would have it the government put on extra trucks for "clean up" week and took all the stuff out to the dump. They won't let us burn anything, and the garbage can't take that sort of stuff very well. *It's raining now which would have made the paper soggy sitting outside.*

Had quite a bit of company this week, like Yesterday Uncle Jack Campbell came down in the morning for about half an hour and the day before we had Eveyn Noble and her little girl for tea, at the same time Jonny and Brian Becker came in. then Mr Pogue, Bev's father asked if a Toronto Man could come and see us Tuesday evening, he was from the Toronto Star (a weekly magazine) and was taking pictures for the Audubon Society etc. He was a photographer with the R.C.A.F. and he thought Pete would enjoy talking to him. Well he came about 8 and Mr Pogue left him with us, Some how that type of person is very nice but invariably from Toronto they assume that they know most everything, He was interesting enough telling about the Airforce, but never asked a thing about Birds or where he would find them, or flowers which he told Mr Pogue he wanted to take but found he was at least a month early for. He never remarked on a thing in the house or a picture or anything like that. We just listened and talked a little and in a way it was a wasted evening for us

He stayed until quarter of eleven and than of course we were sleepy next morning. I could have done a lot in the time spent listening to him, Just shows we will have to be on guard as summer is almost here. It is the time it takes, you don't mind if people are interested in what we have or what we can tell them.

The door came so Werne will soon be in. A letter full of Newbury ones came this morning. What a wonderful time they must be having and it sounds just right, the size of the party and all. They are seeing a lot we did in Rome and Florence and I always notice that they speak of the flowers and what is grown, Cousin Bert especially. So glad the weather has been just right and hope they get it dry in Switzerland. On the radio to-day it speaks of the drought in England. and the forest fires, something they never have and don't really know how to cope with it.

We also got a lovely colored photo of a painting from the other photograph of Miss Cooke, I think the expression is very good don't you, for I expect you got one too. It is nice to think her glass is to go to the historical society. and the friend who writes is a kind sounding person.

You asked about sending books. Please keep what you can in Concord for the time being, It is so inconvenient if you send anything by freight as it has to be cleared by the customs in Calgary and I have to do it through a customs broker and it means writing letters and all sorts of things. Later on it may be we will have a customs office in Banff, they used to have one.

Looks like rain, we need it badly so won't mind.

Heaps of love,

Catharine.

P.S. How nice for you to give the Chapel to the Unitarian Church. What is it like? Expect very simple & nice.

Banff, Alta.

Mon. May 28, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

We went over to the Luxtons store and got these extra copies for you, Norman was real pleased to think you had enjoyed reading about the place. I went to the Museum first but no one was there but an English lady and gentleman, she spoke to me and asked if I didn't think it was one of the most interesting museums I'd ever seen and wasn't it so beautifully kept. It is well done.

Such a busy weekend, we rather expected the Cruikshanks up from Calgary and sure enough they came Saturday afternoon, there was a Shriners convention ~~one~~ at the hotel and a parade ~~So~~ we were all over town to see it, then met them and Pearl and Edmee so they came down for tea, there was a church food sale too so had good cake etc. Pearl took them to supper, then we met them after and all piled in the Jeep and went to see the new road and evening light. Next morning Sunday we picked Merrill up at 9 and drove him to Lake Louise leaving Elaine at Pearls, got back in time to get dinner at one when Pearl brought Elaine and Edmee came bringing a pie for desert. We had just steak and asparagus grown in Lethbridge. I had washed it before we started for Louise. Then the two sisters and a friend of Elaine's came and picked them up at 3 and away they all went back to Calgary.

Merrill has been the head Medical officer in Fiji for all the British possessions in the Pacific, covers a large territory. We knew him first in Nassau where he married Elaine who went down each winter. He was in the R.C.A.F. during the war and then out to the Pacific. He is now retired but has a new job as head of I think it is called the "World Health Organization for the Western Pacific" under the United Nations. really carrying on much the same work as before only on a different basis. They fly to Vancouver and Japan this Wednesday spend 2 weeks there, on to Hongkong, then 3 months in Manila where he will find out how the Americans work their end of the organization for that part and then Australia for two years. They want us to come out and he would try and combine an inspection trip to some of the islands with the trip we would make, is sure we would like Fiji for painting etc. It was wonderful to see them and of course not half time enough for all we wanted to talk about. It was a beautiful day and Merrill had never seen Lake Louise, the ice was still on the lake but going at the edge.

We were a bit weary after so much going on as it was all rather intense, Now we are trying to get the Jeep packed up as the weather is still lovely, might rain anytime now. There is a children's Indian Rodeo at Cardston in the south of the province Saturday and if nice weather we might go, not far from the Campbells. Thought we would head for them and spend a few days there if it is nice. I will try to write from the ranch, might be more time,

So all for now. Heaps of love,

Catherine

To - Ranch
Cowley Alta.
Fri June 1, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

I got too lazy yesterday to even write you. - for the first time in years had a snooze in the afternoon. It was pretty hot & we got so sleepy. Pete tried lying on a canvas on the grass & was breathing nice & evenly when suddenly he jumped up. An ant - or several ants got inside his shirt. Think he must have been sitting on their main highway. So that ended our siesta!

We had quite a time getting started. Always so many little things to remember & see to. The first trip out is the hardest as you forget just how you did it the last time. Monday we had lots of people drop in like Jimmy Simpson on his way to Bow. Eldon Walls & Verne & Sam etc. In between we put things in the jeep. Pete had a new idea & brought the wheel barrow into the kitchen. very convenient to load up & wheel out. Painting stuff. Photographic things. Food. clothes, all separate departments so to speak. we only for got 2 things so far - a tiny funnel for gas for the stove, & box for Pete to put his glasses in at night.

Cyril & Mary Pairs came over in the evening to see the paintings as Pete offered to lend them an Indian Camp for the sea room this summer.

Tuesday morning we took the picture over early & helped hang it. Also went to see a friend in Bauff on a visit etc. Were pretty well all packed by that P.M. Hops tied up & garden watered. There are always last minute things to see to. We decided to go Wednesday A.M.

Woke up about 5 A.M. & by 9 out for fresh bread & a few food items for the Campbells. Had to go to the bank & in the end went 3 times. For after the mail came there were things Russ sent to be signed & witnessed. Oh yes we had a couple of letters to get written that morning. Then David Stockand was coming through on the train at 11.20 so we felt maybe we should go to the station to see him & waited for that. Left from the station at 11.30 & came straight down. Stopped for lunch at a Memorial to a U.S. & Canadian Soldier killed in a training plane during the war near Cochrane. & realized it was Memorial Day in the United States. We also stopped at one of those Swedish Ice Cream places where they make hamburgers too. We

thought a milk shake would taste good
 & the hamburger smelt so good we had
 both. Just while we were there about 10
 others stopped too. It was a warm day.
 In fact coming down we kept saying
 it looked & felt more like the middle of
 August than the end of May. It is very
 dry we have had so much good
 weather, need rain badly now.

Got here just after six. It is 250
 miles, well 246 really. They were just
 finishing the children's supper & Gray
 still seeding a lower field. Fenny part
 was we stopped in to get gas at Maurice
 Lemire's garage, a great friend of theirs
 in Cowley, but he was closed. About 2
 miles towards the ranch (they are 12 miles
 from Cowley) we passed a car & the ^{driver} blew his
 horn. Both Pete & I said, "Looked a bit
 like Maurice." We've only seen him a
 couple of times. Turned out he had been
 up to the Campbells to fix some machinery
 & he recognized us. & telephoned back
 we were on our way. However Gray was
 busy seeding so we surprised him.
 The kids & El came running out
 when they heard the car.

The ranch looked lovely. the few trees near the house are cut & grass quite green. El has her garden planted, vegetables etc. & the rockery was very pretty, shooting stars & wild larkspur etc she had transplanted a couple of years ago.

Gray had been seeding all day & putting in fertilizer at the same time. Had borrowed the machine or seeder & hauled it with the big tractor. he did look funny. just like a negro as the black sail was rather dusty & all one could see were eyes & white teeth. He wanted to finish & move up to another field Thursday so worked late & we waited for a late supper & then ate too much.

We camp in the jeep right near the house & yesterday it was so hot we put the tarpaulin up which made it nice & cool setting underneath. We all felt the heat

though luckily the freeze was cool. The kids of course go to school & left by 8 on their horses. They have to be early as Jane & Darn Pelling are painters for \$10. a month ^{\$5. each} as the school teacher doesn't live at the teacherage. When it's cold they must go even earlier to light the fires. They are all good kids & very thoughtful. When I think how some kids are looked after & here Termy in grade 3 & Dan in grade 1 were off catching their horses before breakfast & all a matter of course. no older people to do any of it. They get home after four, & then El has a hot dinner at night as they take lunches with them to school.

Gray seeded 40 acres yesterday. Started about 7 A.M. El took his lunch up at noon & mae fertilizer in the little jeep. We could see

him all day going round & round
the field, stopping for more seed or
fertilizer most rounds. I think it
was after 6 when he came home
by the time he had milked the
cows & washed up it was nearly
8 when we ate. But he was so
relieved to have the seed all in
before the weather changed.

Farmers sure work long hours.
often from 4 A.M. until 9 P.M.
to get fields finished & then
are too tired to eat & sleep. But
of course it is wonderful to do so
much in a day.

We are now in Cardston &
going to see an ~~am~~ Indian Children's
Rodeo to-morrow. Will mail this
much of the letter & send more later.
We go back to the ranch if the
weather is good to-morrow.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. June 6, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Am way behind once more in writing to you but wanted to have something to mail this afternoon if possible, we are just waiting now for a Mrs Birley from Victoria who is coming for tea.

We came back yesterday from Cowley and got in for a late supper and then this morning slept in and there was quite a bit to see to, always is, lots of mail including some lovely letters from you, It is a 250 mile drive and the wind was terribly strong yesterday and lots of dust blowing from the newly plowed and sown fields, 70 mile an hour gusts which lifts most things.

It was a lovely visit and nice change for us, we didn't do much sketching for it was very hot and the first few days smoky, then we went to the Rodeo thing near Cardston which wasn't as full of Indian color as we had hoped, mostly young Indian boys and girls taking part and the events were fine and run off well but we saw more interesting old characters on the streets of Cardston the night before than at the rodeo, it was very windy too.

The Campbells were glad to see us back and especially the children, Gray and El were off in the little Jeep trying to get some cowp's with calfs from one field up to the ranch. The kids had rounded up all but nine earlier in the day and then they had to separate the yearlings from the mothers and calves and drive them up onto the hill in one direction, then the mothers with calves in the other, a lot to do and the animals can be honoray (if that is how it is spelt) Sunday they take the day off if possible, Gray was trying to copy a story he had written to send to a magazine, but first had to milk cows and do other things, help operate on a pig with Ralph in the afternoon and that took until 4 O'clock. so actually he worked until 2 in the morning to finish the story. We all had a big goose dinner, cooked in the electric oven thing you gave me 25 years ago. Was delicious.

That afternoon I went with El and Dane and Ian up on to a hillside to get rock plants for her little rock garden, also to see if there was water near some willows. We just started when we found 3 chickens outside the wire run, so that took some time getting those. but we had a lovely afternoon and such pretty wild flowers, lovely larkspur short but such an intense blue and forgetmenots. and by one rock on the open hillside where there may be a tiny spring there were little ferns, and there was quite a lot of water near the two willows. We all tried to witch for water but not much luck. The view from the top of the hill was just lovely, all the rockies to the west and the various ranches and fields making quite a pattern.

The next day we tried to get some photographs of a neighbor seeding with a team of 4 horses, he said it may be the last time he uses them as they are 20 years old now, It is an uncommon sight these days. The skies were very dramatic with thunder storms coming up but also hard to get enough sun. That evening Gray took us to a Chinese resteraunt in Cowley for a real Chinese supper. It was awfully good and the little boys just loved it. Gray had to go into the mountains that day with 20 of the yearlings to leave them on the grazing land for the summer. As he was still seeding when the rest rode in he got 2 trucks to haul them. Partly to save the 3 days and partly to help Mrs Clinton, her husband is in hospital with Cancer and she has 5 children. the eldest boy 16 helps her by driving one of the trucks, she does a bit of everything, even hauls coal. they have to shovel out the 48 tons from the box cans at 40¢ a ton and then she delivers it for \$1.35 a ton, shoveling it out again, and she has no dump truck. Some people do have a hard time but she seemed very happy & cheerful.

No chance to mail this sooner & send love
Heaps of love
Catherine

Just had wine from Rusty & will meet
him in Calgary - Date just right for us -

Bow Lake
Friday
June 8, 1956.

Dearest Mother.

We are up at Bow Lake with the
Simpsons for the night & if the weather improves
perhaps the weekend. Came on the spur of the
moment this morning to see how it is - a bit
early yet. still patches of snow & like March
or April rather than June. But was so here
last week when we found it so warm in
Cowley.

I don't know whether to write from
now back or from my last letter forward. In
fact I can hardly remember myself when we
did what. Think I was writing Wednesday
while we waited for the Victoria people to come
for tea. They arrived at 4 P.M. He is an
architect in Victoria & very interested in photography.
She too photographs but also does pastels of
horses, dogs, cats & children. has done a
lot. has made a real business of it as she
gets good likenesses. Said a friend told her
she must have "arrived" for someone is
sending a horse over from Vancouver to
have his portrait painted!

With children she takes many pictures & finds out the expressions & poses the family like. then starts a drawing. then gets the child to pose, sometimes several days. She usually makes 2 pastels or more. Lets them choose the one they like best & then offers the other to them half price & they invariably take both as the mother & father don't always agree on which is the best likeness. I thought that a smart idea.

They seemed to enjoy the visit & stayed until nearly 7 o'clock which made a short evening for us. Thursday there were lots of things to see too. Had to decide on the color to paint the corner store & back of Whites. I did the work up & we had to think what to do about one stove burn't out. Eldon thought maybe we'd like a new one & put ours in the rented house. Now Pete has decided to give me the de luxe model for my birthday. Yellow enamel & push button controls. high speed element, a timer etc. Is still a small one. 27 inches wide. but has a warming oven as well as extra large oven. I can put a roast in, set the timer. we can go out for the day. It will start cooking at the right time & turn off when done & even if we are an hour late it will still be warm! Has a light in the oven too. Will be very nice actually.

1. Last night Cyril Paris asked us to supper in his tea room & just as I was finishing the icing before getting ready. Harold came. then Jimmy & then Barbara & the Deers. A bit hectic. Harold to show us slides. Don't tell us of his job for summer & Barbara that she may teach school next winter in Banff!

But what I really meant to do was answer your nice letters - & thank you for the ones from others. Always nice to read. Hardly seems possible the newshirts will be home so soon. What a lot they will have to tell & how wonderful the weather stayed good & the flowers all seemed at their best.

Where are Mercelia & Mildred off to? Sounded like another trip you were launching. To tell us - isn't it wonderful Cousin Jane can see better? & perhaps her eye will keep improving now the cataract is removed. Her sight should be better as she gets used to the glasses.

We are so glad Rusty likes it out here & to be with us. We saw Jimmy Wednesday & he said he was hoping Rusty could come soon & go with the guide, Tom Henderson, to get the horses. It would be a real experience. Evidently Tom likes Rusty so it's quite a compliment to Rusty to be asked. It would take several days to bring them from their winter pastures to Bow Lake. We wired in case Rusty didn't realize how much they want him. We can meet Rusty at the Airport in Calgary - almost anytime but the last week in June when we are going to a Sun Dance. The Indians giving it wrote to ask us to come. the 27th 28th & 29th & 30th. Then we have a big weekend in Canada including the 1st & 2nd of July when it is a poor time to be on the roads.

Will add to this tomorrow before mailing it.
Loads of love from us all - The Semprans
all asked for you Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
~~Friday June 8, 1956.~~
Monday, June 11, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Just a hurried letter as usual, sometime I am going to sit down and really take time to answer your nice letters and some of the questions but right now have to go to the bank before 3 and have the Blue Jeans washing and Mr Lonsdale may come with his painting and the new stove also may arrive. It really is a beauty for we saw it in the store this morning. I shall have to try and do better as a cook!

What a wonderful idea to give Mildred and Mercelia a trip next summer. What sort of one will it be? Conducted like the Newburys? or perhaps a different kind giving more time but costing the same amount so to speak. What fun they will have all winter looking forward and planning. You really are good to think of it, a very nice thing to do and fun for you as well.

Shall be anxious to hear of the Newburys' Home-coming. Cousin Bert will have enough to talk about for the rest of his life. We had a nice letter from London saying how sorry they were not to have seen our friend in Interlaken but it was just as well for Rudolph is rather quiet and I am sure they had a better time doing what they did.

We do feel so sorry about Mrs Sohler, I wondered when you hadn't mentioned her recently how she was making out. From people's experiences here, I really think it is not right to be alone, for the first few months anyway. Pearl Moore who was always with the Colonel and they did everything together has been wonderful since he died, but then she has lots of friends and relations she is always busy taking out or going to see or doing things with, but we know when she is down at their house in the summer months she is pretty lonely. Yet she has a very good arrangement as Dorothy Cranston who runs a little shop in the hotel lives with her. sleeps there and goes back and forth morning and night, someone in the house and to talk to at night, but a person who doesn't bother Pearl if she has company. In the winter Pearl closes her house and takes a room in the hotel from Sept. until after Christmas when she usually takes a trip to Honolulu or somewhere warm. comes back in the spring to the hotel for a month and then to her house again.

Grace Mather who's husband died when he was about 50 had the two girls going to school but she was alone too much otherwise and had a hard time of it. One should see people just to keep from thinking and being sorry for oneself, don't you think? If only Mrs Sohler could get interested in painting again, or if she could maybe help others with private lessons or a small class. Summer would be a good time for that. Remember how she had Cal and Milly and me, often lessons drawing in her studio and sometimes out doors. Even if she had a person like Mrs French and Mrs Bartlett coming in the mornings or afternoons for an hour and helped them with criticisms, ~~she would~~ it would give her a new interest and she would be helping someone, Seems to me it is not being needed all of

a sudden that probably makes a person lonely. Or she might find that she could help teach children or grownups who have to stay in hospitals a long time, so much is done like that. Do let us know how she makes out.

Sometimes I think that if people who are lonely would only make the effort and go and see the ones who are shut in and can't get out, they would be so busy they wouldn't have time to think.

How about Aunt Julie, how is she getting on.

Sam Ward has just come in, is helping Pete frame the pictures for the Rotary Exhibition this summer. They take turns staying there, the members and their wives, and there is a silver collection for the library fund. Worked well last summer.

This isn't much of a letter but will write again soon.
Heaps of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.

June 14, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

I started a letter to you yesterday in the car but never got beyond the first two paragraphs so will try again to-day. Pete is out getting something fixed on the Jeep so there shouldn't be any interruptions for a while.

My 50th. was a very nice birthday, nothing too exciting but a busy day, and thank you so much for the wonderful book on Beatrix Potter. It is fascinating and I shall certainly read her life with it. I read part of it once but not the whole thing. This is such an interesting book and the illustrations so well reproduced. She did have a real feeling for mice and other little animals. and drew and sketched so well. Many thanks, I never knew there was such a book.

The one about Helen Keller will be most interesting too, she was here once for Indian Days and I think the Stonys took her into the tribe, about 20 years ago. I remember seeing her.

Also it was nice to have the little note to open and a letter came at noon. Am glad you are trying to take things easy and save up for the events you really want to see, hope you don't get too hot a summer. Why not enquire into one of those air conditioners? Put it into just one room that you could sit in if very hot. They have them to fit into a window and it sucks in the fresh air and cools it a bit, you don't want it too different from the outside temperature but just enough to make it seem cooler. You could even put it in your bed room so you would sleep better on hot nights. They don't look badly and anyway are worth it to feel better. All through the south west they have them in the motels and even the cars and it has made all the difference with people being able to live there comfortably and work in summer. *all stores & offices, restaurants etc have them.*

The new stove is quite wonderful, we christened it when Syd and Doris were here for tea on Tuesday afternoon. Cecil had come after lunch to hook it up and I had spent the morning cleaning out the oven of the old stove. Another new thing called "Easy Off" a jelly like substance one mustn't let stay on ones hands, I used rubber gloves. You put it on with a rubber sponge applicator and leave it 2 or 3 hours or over night. I did it just 2 hours, then simply wash it off with warm water and all the stuff burn't on the oven comes off the enamel like magic, even off the metal trays. A great boon to housewives!

Well the new stove is so fast we can hardly keep up with it. I put the kettle on to boil and had just gone into the front room and sat down to talk when I could hear it starting to boil, and it is the same with everything. We have to watch not to get too much heat. It has a clock and timer and goodness knows what. a light to cook by too. and a large oven, I can back 8 pies at once, though goodness knows one is too much for us. But of course you can do a whole meal if you want.

We had rather a busy afternoon, were out in the morning doing errands etc. and then Eldon Walls came down and Verne Castella and then we went out for Pete to try a lens on some of the machinery working on the new road, we just got back when Evelyn Noble and her little girl came to return some books and stayed a while. then Eldon again after seeing Jackie. It is all about the store business and what they will do with it. They haven't been looking after things properly and owe so many of the wholesalers big amounts it looks a bit now as if they might go bankrupt if they can't sell out. Jackie is hopeless to discuss anything with, he has to have it his own way so we are all leaving it up to him to decide what to do, but he likes to blame everyone but himself, which makes it difficult.

After supper Pete was developing a film when first Sam and Cis arrived with some lavender bath salts for my birthday and then Jonny and then Asta Hauge with a dozen beautiful roses and six carnations. So we had quite an evening. This morning Frank Aquits the Indian boy appeared, he has been working on the slashing of the new road east with the other Indians and so has bought a car, they all do that. It looks fairly good but hope it runs well. He had a couple of pictures to show Pete and they talked for quite a while before we had to go out.

I am so far behind in letter writing had better not write more now. We have a busy week ahead. Are going to Cowley if the weather is good on Saturday for over Sunday, most likely will return on Monday, and do a few things in Calgary. Then the Morants arrive from Mexico & Peru on Wednesday and meet Rusty soon after that. the following week we have been invited to the Sundance in Morley and in between there are all sorts of things to do,

Loads of love Mother and many thanks again for the lovely books I know a lot of people will enjoy the Beatrix Potter one as so many have read it as a child.

In Love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. June 17, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

What a day, didn't turn out at all the way we expected but then you never can tell what will happen in Banff. The day started quietly enough, got my hair washed which was something and washed out sheets and towels that didn't need ironing and looked for a number of things Pete wanted and also dusted downstairs as we expected company. the Hugh John MacDonalds.

Then after dinner I started for the mail and Bev called as I was passing that Young Peter White was here, He is Cliff's youngest son and has been away 8 or 10 years. Is the boy who went up to Kitamat and drove the largest mackinery when building the big Aluminum plant. We had never met his wife Lois and little girl, "ere on their way with her parents and here just for the day. So said they would be down later. I went on to the post office and met Bubby who came with me, then Hugh John MacDonald (one of the Justices of the Supreme Court in Edmonton) His wife and daughter spotted us and we got in the car and came over here, It must have been about 2.15, Bubby had known the daughter at University so they had a great chat and we all visited for a while. Then Jonny appeared and later Harold, I made coffee about 3 and it must have been nearly four when Barbara came with a young man looking for Bubby, so they left and Barbara stayed and talked and then the MacDondals left and Barbara Jon and Harold sat on. They didn't go until after five so it was a long afternoon.

We had supper and then started packing up the Jeep as we had planned to go to Cowley for a night had it not rained Saturday. and Mr Scott came by, then Young Peter, Lois and the little girl Cathie came, so though they hadn't much time they came in and soon Jon and Harold appeared, followed by Bubby and Barbara to see them too and Rita Crick, so all in all with the dogs as well it was quite busy again. They have just gone and it is nearly nine now. It was nice to see them and Meet a new neice.

We will telephone in the morning to see how the roads are at Cowley but if we don't go to-morrow may not get down for a couple of weeks. The Morants come Wednesday and we got Rusty's wire that he will be here on Friday. It will all work out very well giving us time in between to re-organize a bit.

If this gets there by Thursday, tell Rusty we are looking forward to meeting him and plan to spend the night in Calgary, and drive up in the morning for it will be late his time when he gets. there. 8.50 P.M. our time, nearly midnight his.

Bedtime so will write when we get back from Cowley. So glad Mrs Sohler is better, it really is a terrific adjustment for a person who has done everything with her husband for so many years and have no close family living near.

Heaps of love, Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Thurs. June 21, 1956.

Dearest Mother,

Once more this probably won't be much of a letter as this has been a busy week. We went to Cowley for over night on Monday, a nice letter from you came just as we were leaving. About Rusty coming for lunch most every day and the party Gale gave for Housey, Wonder if the wedding was last Saturday or this, hope it was a nice day and not too hot.

To-morrow we go to Calgary and combine shopping with meeting Rusty, spoke for a motel 8 miles west of Calgary and thought we would spend the night there, for it will be about mid-night Rusty's time and he should be sleepy. We decided he might as well sleep while we do, instead of coming up to Banff next day on the train we will drive and then he can decide whether he wants to stay with us for a night or go right up to Bow Lake, in which case we would spend the night at Bow and come back Sunday evening.

Think I wrote ^{last} Sunday night, Monday we got away soon after nine for we had packed up the night before and were up about 6.30 that morning, it is not as hard to remember things now as it was the first couple of times, things we take out of the Jeep we usually leave on a chest in the back hall and then one doesn't forget as easily. We went straight through to the ranch, only stopping in the town for gas and Morris Lemire at the garage always telephones we are coming. Gray was out taking the census and Ralph Pilling building a house for someone and the kids at school, but Eleanor was home and made a cup of tea. It was a beautiful day and clear after the rain. *We had a big Indian dinner later.*

Ralph Pilling is building us a cabin to stay in when we go down. Maybe I have told you already. That was one reason we wanted to get down to see it before he went too far. It is just one room but a big window at either end, one for painting and the other for the view. Will make it nicer in case the weather is bad or too hot or windy, we can then stay longer if we have a place of our own and not feel we are in the way. He had the floor laid out and the walls ready to go up. We had a look at it before supper and again the next morning before leaving at 10.30. Gray and El went with us part way over the fields to show us what they have done and the fields planted this year. I do hope they have good crops, a farmer's life is so uncertain. This year it has been so dry and no rain until a week ago. The ones who planted winter wheat last year lost it all with winter kill and have had to plow it up and re-seed, then the hay has started to head out without growing more than a few inches, whereas some years they have it ~~knaw~~ knee deep. It is very dry in many parts. Luckily Gray just finished seeding last time we were down and then they had a good rain and it was already showing, but so much can happen yet and always the threat of hail. He has 4 fields so surely it couldn't all be hailed this year.

We left them at 11 A.M. and drove straight home, stopping only for a bite, (hamburger and a milk shake) in Claresholm ~~at~~ a good little place, and for gas in Calgary. Got to Banff at 5.15 and so shopped, got bacon and eggs for supper and then decided to have soup and salad as it was so hot and humid and we were tired. We came back that day so as to be here to meet the Morants who were coming Wednesday afternoon from their Mexico and Peru trip. We had supper and went up to Mr Scott's to get the paper etc. and for some reason didn't stay long and just as we came back a Brewster taxi drove in. Nick and Willi as day early. We were so surprised, They had wired us but we had never gotten the wire and it seems that Nick has a pass for wires C.P.R. so he wired " Peter Whyte, Banff, will arrive Tuesday, don't tell anyone! or something like that. The Telegrapher here is named " Whyte" so when Nick saw him later he said " I got your wire and didn't tell a soul " They had left off the " Peter " and the "Whyte" had become "Whyte"! It was funny.

Luckily we hadn't eaten the bacon and eggs for it came in very handy and we made soup first and then the rest and there was even enough for them to take some bacon and eggs back for breakfast next morning. Of course they had a lot to tell about their trip to Peru and Mexico and then we took them via a store to pick up some milk etc and then to their house. so it was after ten when we got home. Quite a day for us as we had been up since 6.30 I guess and driven the 250 miles and it had been hot and humid. 87 in Calgary.

Yesterday we didn't do a great deal but Pete took the Jeep to find a noise, a broken bracket holding the muffler but it took until nearly 11, I washed etc. Then we went up to the Morants as they had no license for their car, brought them downtown and cooked a big dinner. steak and ice cream with strawberries etc. then packed up checked baggage etc. and it was 4.P.M. by the time we got home. When we want to rest we usually drive out the west road to see how it is coming along, then no one can get hold of you, so our supper was a bit late. Pearl Moore dropped in while we were finishing, and while she was here a lady from Washington called. Came back later with 3 school teachers, she is some distant relative from New Brunswick and was here 4 years ago and remembered the paintings. We told her we had to go out later so they didn't stay too long. in fact went at 9, but they were all so interested in everything we hadn't the heart not to show them things, In fact the hour they were here they hardly sat down.

To-day we have been busy too, washing woolens and Pete making a sketch, just laid in for a window decoration, and then we had things over town to see to. Verne is here fixing a little extra thing for the Jeep and we have just had coffee.

I will be writing again soon, Do hope you have got cooler weather, 92 is awfully hot for June.

Heaps of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alta.

Sun. June 24, 1956

Dearest Mother,

This has been rather a busy week, we just got back this afternoon after taking Rusty to Bow Lake and now will concentrate on getting letters written, (I Hope!) and some other things done. It was fun having Rusty but after all the previous doings we were a little weary and not too exciting. Anyway will start from the beginning and tell you all about it. the easiest way for me to remember .

A week ago we had that busy Sunday with so much company from after noon dinner until late evening. The Hugh John MacDonalds and daughter, Bubby and then Jon, Harold and Barbara, and after supper Young Peter Whyte, His wife Lois and little girl, Cathie, and again Jon Harold, Barbara and Bubby. so we were tired that night and had to be up early for the drive to Cowley. That took 7 hours on Monday, and a late evening there, then up again at 6.30 and a drive back of another 250 miles, and that was the evening the Morants arrived unexpectedly from Peru and Mexico, we cooked them supper and talked until taking them home at 10 P.M. A long day for us so we were a bit weary in the morning on Wednesday.

Pete took the car to be fixed Wednesday morning, standing around for a couple of hours for otherwise they are apt to go to other cars as they come in, and I washed etc. Then to the Morants and it ended by their coming to noon dinner. Think maybe we have had too many big meals this week, for the easiest and quickest meal is steak, a vegetable and ice cream with strawberries. Then we took them around to do errands and it was 4 when we got home. Earl Moore came as we were finishing supper and then the 4 ladies from Washington who called for over an hour. Quite a day after all.

Thursday I washed again and we went over town at ten to see about things, Verne was here in the afternoon to fix a little shelf in the Jeep by the wheel where the radio could go but doesn't. Most convenient for holding gloves and maps etc. There is a compartment on the right with a handy shelf to hold a cup of tea if one eats in the car, and now there is one for the driver too. Verne is wonderful fitting things. We also saw Sam about a fence at the back of the store etc. and Pete made a sketch for the Rotary Club to put in the window of their exhibition of paintings, just laid in roughly. Then Sam came and asked us to go to dinner with them at the new Timberline Hotel a cousin of Cis Wards runs. We hadn't been up there before and it was Sam's birthday and he didn't want Cis to go to the trouble of a big dinner, so up we went, were a bit tired but dressed up and Sam said we would come home right after, of course we didn't, had a big delicious dinner (instead of our usual supper of soup and salad) and talked afterwards. The Vallances and Wards were there too and George Ball the new manager showed us the suites etc. which was fun. Has a lovely view and the rooms on one side all have balconys. It was ten when we got home.

Friday was the day we were to meet Rusty at 8.50 P.M.

So we decided to combine some shopping in Calgary with the trip. Got away about 11 A.M. as we didn't hurry, it was rather warm, about 80 I think. Stopped at a place called Eamons on the way down and got a motel, living room, bedroom and bath, had a good lunch and then on to Calgary. I did errands while Pete had his glasses adjusted and did a few things too, we met at 4 at the Parking place and drove out to the Jeep place way the other side of Calgary, left there just before the 5 o'clock rush and went right up to Pete's Aunt Maggie Graysons and asked them to have dinner with us at the Airport thinking to be there when Rusty arrived. The McClintocks thought that would be fun. Aunt Maggie lives with them, so we went ahead to reserve a table and see about a wheel chair as Aunt Maggie is blind and has to use crutches as she broke her hip when she was over 80. The Air Port is about 5 miles from their house.

When we got out there we found a long flight of stairs to the dining room though the little girl in the information desk was very good and said she would help with the wheel chair. She was a little flapper type too but very good natured. However we next discovered the plane was 4½ hours late, and wouldn't be in until 1.30 A.M. So we decided quickly to change and take Aunt Maggie and Stella and Billy McClintock to Eamons 8 miles the other side of Calgary. Telephoned them and back we went and they followed us to Eamons which was much better for there was only one step up, Aunt Maggie just goes where they aim her from behind and does awfully well. Stella walks right behind with a hand on each side and sort of steers her and Billy in front watches for steps. It worked very well and we had a wonderful chicken dinner and Aunt Maggie did enjoy it, she does awfully well and the waitress never knew she was blind. They left about 9 and we decided to go to bed for a while and the man said he would call the airport about midnight and then wake us in time to get back out to the Air Port.

We had a good rest and even slept, waking about midnight. Pete thought he had better just check himself in case the man forgot and found the plane would be in about 1.15, so we just had time to drive the 15 miles or less, have a cup of coffee and the plane arrived. Guess Rusty had slept a bit too. He had had the long wait in Toronto as they ^{had} been late from Montreal I guess, but it only takes 6 or 7 hours for the flight. We were back at the Eamons by 2 A.M. and so all had another 6 hours sleep. It really worked very well. We let Rusty have the bedroom thinking he might want to sleep longer than we did, but when he heard us about 8 he got up too, of course it was 11 A.M. his time. We had a good breakfast and left for Banff. *a lovely morning to drive up -*

Saturday was a lovely day and it was a good ride up, we got here about 11.30, just nice time to see Eldon and have Rusty meet him too, Rusty sent a wire and we got steaks for lunch and the mail, a nice letter from you. We all relaxed and later Harold came over and he and Rusty decided to go for a swim so we dropped them off at the Banff Springs and they evidently had a good time together for it wasn't until six that Rusty got back. Supper and then a quiet evening for by 8 it was really 11 P.M. for Rusty and he got sleepy as we were, we talked and it was nearly ten when we went to bed.

We find Rusty has grown a lot and matured since last year. Think the school at Port Hope must have been a good experience. He spoke of how he had dropped in on you^l at lunch time each day. Thought it was good for you to be teased a bit even if you called him " ~~ag~~ A Goose." He evidently enjoyed it. He talked so much more and teased me, told us he couldn't eat much and then ate twice what we expected. Evidently he likes to work and do things, and to keep busy, doesn't like crowds, or cities or sightseeing or commercialized places. Doesn't like too much of a social life, says he likes to talk about religion and philosophy and discuss things like that. I guess he is just growing up.

This morning it was raining and thundering as we had breakfast but not too bad a day. We didn't hurry but left about ten, Rusty had his things all packed and we had his sleeping bag and pillow etc. Not much fuss for he knew what to expect this time and what he needed.

We got to Bow Lake just at noon, the others were finishing dinner, all but young Jimmy who ate with us. The Simpsons were all glad to see him and Tom Henderson who works with the horses. ~~amx~~ They have a fine looking other man, Calude Miner. We all ate another big meal and then took Rusty and his bag over to the new bunk house. Young Jimmy has put up at the Corral, they are all so proud of it. It is an old log building he took down last winter in town back of George Nobles store, then cleaned the logs and set it up near the spring where the ~~the~~ creek starts. Tom Henderson was washing dishes and the new lad, Claude drying them when we went in. The building is divided into two rooms, the front part a kitchen, big stove, two cupboards for dishes and things and a big table, real cozy sort of room, and then in back another room with 3 beds where Tom, Claude and Rusty will sleep. Jimmy stays with Harri and the 2 kids in another cabin. It is going to be good fun for Rusty to be with the other men. They will do their own cooking too.

I noticed Rusty was eager to get started working and Jimmy said they had lots of wood to get in. then there is a Dr Johnson and his wife from Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, there for 3 weeks, and they are to go on a ~~Exweek~~ 10 day pack trip I think. Dr Johnson is an orthopedic surgeon and they were there 6 years ago. We met him for a minute, a fine sort so it will be fun if Rusty can go with them.

Don't think I told you about Big Jim tangling with a Moose a week ago, still has his arm in a cast. Seems he was helping with the building at the Corral and had just lifted a plank to put it out of the way, Jimmy was in the cabin and glanced out to see a bull moose charge out of the woods, so one had heard it. He shouted " Look Out Dad" and Jim looked over the left shoulder, saw nothing and turned to the right just as the Moose hit him in the arm. Harri said Jim looked so little compared to the Moose as he went down. The Moose broke his right arm but otherwise didn't hurt him. In fact we saw him next day in Banff when he came in to have the bone set and a cast put on. It was a clean break so May said. Even when we saw him he was full of it and went with us to the hospital to see George Noble who is sick. He sure has lots of spunk.

Bedtime so better stop. We came back this afternoon and hope to-morrow to get busy doing all sorts of things, Pete to finish a painting and I to catch up on letters etc.

Heaps of love,

*after writing this Sid & Evelyn
Wells called. He is back
Catharine manager & being moved.*

Bayl.
Alberta
June 28, 1956

Dearest Mother.

Just a note. we are off for the Sundance at Moley. An all day trip. Were up at 6. Don't know if we will get many pictures. Have had a busy few days & quite a number of callers. Will write when we get back. Might even spend the night camped out.

Will enclose 2 clippings I thought a coincidence as they were in the paper the day Rusty arrived. One, a man who went to his school at Fort Hope, the other about Concord -

Heaps of love

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Fri. June 29th. 1956

Dearest Mother,

We had quite a day yesterday and would have gone back to Morley ~~xxxxxxx~~ this afternoon but it looks too rainy, rained all night and lots of fresh snow on the mountain tops.

George Kaquits invited us to the Sun Dance he was putting on this year, said to come about noon when they would put the tree up. The ceremony we saw last year just as a thunder storm hit and we left hurriedly in case the road washed out.

By luck we got up at 6.30 yesterday morning, it was a lovely day and we packed up in case we might want to spend the night too, left about nine and were there soon after ten. The camp this year is on the other side of the valley on a big flat, about 5 miles west of Morley, a hillside just back of one side of the circle of tents, a view of the distant range of rockies to the west. They evidently had already brought the tree in, a thunder storm was appearing over the hill and I guess that may have spurred them on. Anyway we just had time to go to the further side of the camp and get the cameras out and tripod set up for the one Pete wanted to use, and ready to take colored pictures.

The camp was set in the usual circle of tents, an opening to the west and an even larger opening to the east. one teepee was set up west of where the Sun Dance lodge was to be erected, with the door facing east. Someone calls to get the people to gather and then while the tree was still lying on the ground, or the top lifted high enough to allow the various Indians to tie on bits of colored ribbon on several yards of cloth. It is very gay and colorful in the sun. Each Indian says a prayer before making fast the cloth and then stands back reverently. Tom Kaquits came and told us his piece was the vivid blue one fluttering from the top, cost \$2.50, He evidently had a vision of a big blue bird, an "experience" he called it. like our bluebird but very large for it was in heaven. so that was the meaning of his blue cloth. They have long ropes in 4 directions and with some drumming when the time comes they gradually raise the tall tree towards the east. It still had it's green branches, was a very high and straight aspen. Tom also told us later he had warned them to get it up soon as it might rain or storm if they didn't and the rest of the afternoon there were thunder storms all around but we had clear sky all the time.

Once the tree was up and the cloth flying gaily in the breeze, and the hole well stamped in, they knocked off for the heat of the day and dinner, so we drove a little way off and ate out sandwiches, then came back, when most of the hottest part of the day was spent digging holes for the 8 poles that go around to make the lodge. each pole about 10 or 12 feet from the other in a circle, This took a good deal of time, the ground is hard and rocky, then the poles were brought and the cross pieces. They used forked poles and the cross pieces fitted nicely in the "Y"s", after they were placed

long poles were raised to the center pole, which also is forked, and these were tied in some way to the cross piece midway between the forked poles set in the ground. Then another cross piece about waist high, all the way round. It was well constructed and during all this work the younger people rode out on horse back and brought in single aspens with the leaves on to stand up around the whole frame work. They also used one wagon to bring in great piles of trees and a truck, but the men and girls and even quite young boys kept going back and forth bringing one tree each and held upright while they rode. It was very colorful and they seemed to have great fun. In the old days there must have been many more who rode horseback for it took lots of trees to form a solid wall around the lodge. It was very pretty, the fresh green leaves and the pole with the cloth fluttering from the top. We took lots of pictures but didn't go too close though George Kaquits said we could go anywhere and take all the pictures we liked.

The Indians seemed to accept us and various ones we knew came up and spoke to us and shook hands, they were just sitting in or near their neat little white tents, some sewing, kids playing and others with little fires in back on the hillside where it was cool to eat under the aspen trees. It wasn't too hot except in the middle of the day but after six hours we were rather weary and could feel our faces burn so decided to come home and go down again if we liked. They would start dancing in the evening and dance all night inside the lodge, all day to-day and to-night and perhaps stop to-morrow at noon. They fast first and then dance and dance, taking turns. There were only a few other white people who wandered in and out again but actually we seemed to be the only ones taking pictures.

Am afraid it will be too dull to-day but we were lucky with lovely clouds and so much sun yesterday.

Haven't done a great deal this week as we were tired after so much last, Pete worked quite a lot on an Indian Camp he is trying to finish and I had a lot to do, we had some company as well, it is now lunch time so will call this a letter.

Heaps of love and will be writing soon, am hitting all the wrong letters this morning.

Catharine