

Box 370
Banff, Alta.
Sat. Aug, 3, 1957

Dearest Mother, ~~We~~ have really neglected you the last few days, my recent letters may have been "long" but not "often." It's too bad when you weren't feeling quite as spunky as usual, perhaps by now things are better.

Such a busy time as we have had, up early in the mornings and 3 late nights in a row. Think it was Wednesday I last wrote, we went to mail your letter, saw Mr Turner about the Art Gallery, as they need signs to show the way in and the clerks in the Government Office have been very sticky. is annoying as it takes everyones time. Have to have signs with raised letters etc. Then we met a Mr and Mrs Spring who have been coming here since Pete was a boy, a nice elderly couple, she looks real feeble compared to you, so we talked to them a while as they sat in their car, then had to hurry a bit to get ready for the supper party at Edméé's at 7 o'clock.

It was a very simple party for the Davenports and the Hawaiians. Think I wrote how they serenaded Guffy at the station when he arrived.

There was Guffy and Freddie (his wife) her sister, Mrs Sterner, then Pearl Moore with Kuualoha and Tom Treadway (Hawaiians) Merle and Dell Brewster, Doris Blow, Moxie Whitney and his wife, (he has the orchestra at the Banff Springs) Rosalie and Bill Stevens with their daughter Peaches, (all 3 Hawaiians) and Charlie and Edméé of course and Dorothy Cranston who was in Honolulu last winter and Pat Brewster. Quite a party. We had something to drink, then platters of cold meat, a salad and bread and butter, coffee and ice cream and cheese and crackers, all very nice and just enough.

It was fun for after supper the Kuualoha and Rosalie sang

and Moxie played a guitar (I think it was) and Peaches and Edmee danced various hulas.

There were 4 more Hawaiians expected, they were driving new cars from Detroit and had been in Helena the night before and were expected that evening. Sure enough about 10 o'clock they drove in and had found the note Pearl left on her gate and so had come on up to Edmee's but didn't know the other Hawaiians were there, so as they came in the door Rosalie & Kuualoha greeted them with a special song. They were so surprised and really all delighted and for about 5 minutes they ~~sang~~ sang to-gether, It was really quite wonderful, for instead of a lot of foolish questions and greetings and everyone talking at once, they all sang to-gether and the songs got peppier and livelier as they got more enthused. They are great people for expressing themselves in song.

The others were pretty tired and we left soon after that but Pearl said they talked until 4 AM at her house and she got no sleep at all! Rosalie went up to the Banff Springs to sing a few numbers for Moxie in the ballroom, they were supposed to start for Alaska the next day, the Stevens had already stayed over a couple of days to see Guy Davenport who they knew in Honolulu 20 years ago. and then we heard they stayed an extra day to see the Icefields. So were going to drive to Fairbanks in 3 days!

We don't think they look at the scenery but just drive and don't bother about speed limits either. of the 4, there were 2 girls in each car, (if you could call Kuualoha's sister over 80 a girl) and Mabel said "while I drove Lillie entertained me with her ~~singing~~ singing."

Thursday we had asked Guy and Freddie and Mrs Sterner to dinner. Were a little late getting up, Sam came in about a show case and then we met Guy over town and Pete took him around while I shopped. Got home at noon for a 12.30 meal but we had steaks, boiled new potatoes and corn and sliced peaches which are all quick. Then after lunch and the dishes done

we took them to see Carl Rungius and later the Museum and then a drive all around until 5 o'clock. We were due up at the hotel for dinner with Jean Park at 7 o'clock and seems to me someone came in when we got back.

Anyway we met in Jean's room for a drink first and Colin and Mrs MacCartney were there as well as Guy, Freddie and Mrs Sterner. It was nearly 8.30 by the time we had dinner but it was fun for Guy and Mr MacCartney compared notes on running the Banff Springs and some of the funny things that happened. Guy was manager in the 1920s and Mr M. now. Saw a few of the Birds pictures which were on and his lecture and then we came home about 11.

Yesterday we told Guy to come down about 2 P.M. and we would drive him to Lake Minnewanka which he wanted to see. and in the morning we went down to Pearls to see what their plans were, they were all in various stages of breakfast, some dressed, some not. Fresh snow on the mountains too. Were busy all morning with things. and then spent the afternoon taking the others to the lake and up Norway and back to the hotel about 5 again. Eric Harvie came in before supper and at 7 Pete Takser to load film in the dark room and then about 8.30 Pearl and Merle brought the Hawaiians down for the evening. Guy and Freddie couldn't get here until about 10 and then we had some songs and it was rather nice. We recorded them.

So you see we have been pretty busy. The weather hasn't been too good, quite heavy showers in the mountains.

Time now for us to go out again and see the Art Exhibit at the Summer school.

Will write again soon am way behind as usual.

Heaps of love,

Catharine

A nice letter from Mrs Mayor. Am afraid I've written very few.

Box 570
Banff, Alta.
Mon, Aug 5, 1957

Dearest Mother

We received your short note this morning. Hadn't been really frightened by the previous one, but then you may not have sent it air mail so it isn't here yet.

So sorry you haven't been feeling too good the last while. Perhaps you will just have ups & downs like that, but we are glad you were up again & the doctor said you were O.K. Maybe it is the long stretch of dry hot weather. Here in the mountains we keep having rain storms, real heavy ones, like yesterday afternoon it gelled in as if it would rain for a week. & then cleared off quite unexpectedly.

We were a bit wary after so many late nights last week but are so fond of Guy Davenport we wanted to do all we could for him. but are hoping to get out of town again soon. Pete made a couple of dentist appointments 2 weeks ago for Tues & Wed this week at 8 A.M. so looks like a couple of early mornings this week. It's hard to get them. We have also been doing an 8 rolls of color film.

I was writing this while Pete did a couple of things over town and then Barbara came along and chatted, as we don't see much of her, she is teaching weaving, this is her last week.

The Gallery seems to be coming along but no pictures sold yet, but lots of artists supplies. We are trying to ^{get} a better sign so people will be tempted in easier.

Last night we did 4 rolls of color film and this afternoon, four more. Once you start the process of developing them you

have to keep on as it is all time and temperature and 7 different chemicals, quite complicated, takes all my time keeping the temperatures just right. Just as we finished about 3 o'clock Pat MacKenzie came along and then Annora Brown the artist and her friend Doris Hunt dropped in and later Nellie MacKenzie, so we all had tea. Annora Brown is the one who was painting at the ranch and also lives in Cowley. Fort MacLeod -

Yesterday afternoon we went up to the School of Fine Arts to the exhibition of paintings as well as weaving and ceramics, all very nice. There were so many there it was hard to see much and also tea if you wanted, we didn't stay for that. Davy was over for noon dinner and Jonny went up to the exhibition with us, will send you one of the catalogues for I think Mercelia might be interested in the Weaving section. I notice one man and wife from Des Moines were weavers.

Had better get this down to the station so all for now.

Loads of love and do hope you are feeling ever so much better now.

Catherine

Box #70
Banff, Alta.
Tues. Aug. 6, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Such a nice long letter from you to-day enclosing the nice one from Rusty, I guess he still has the same address. Quite a time at the beach, dunking officers !

You certainly had a lot of callers to keep you busy. did Mercelia have a good trip and how did she like Quebec and Nova Scotia (I think it was) she went to ? We were glad to hear that the Miss Stimsons have moved into the little barn and glad you could help speed the move, it will be nice to have them nearer and Windmill hill is such a friendly district. Is it the little Miss Morrison in the nursing home, the one who didn't seem to know just what she was doing? I do feel sorry for the other one with so much care and I think your book tells that she is already in her eighties. I do hope the one who is so ill doesn't linger and use up all there money so to speak, which so often happens. If I remember rightly they have cousins up here in Canada and lived in Victoria during the war, and to think Sted came to see you and couldn't find you !

He had a nice letter from Jim Orr the other day and he said Sted was going to take him to see you one of these days, think it was to be this Tuesday, as he hadn't been out to Concord for a long time. He is planning to open an office in San Francisco of Colonial ~~Development~~ Management Associates of which he is head and might work in a return trip via Banff the end of October. I do hope he can for it would make it so much nicer for us if he could see Banff, and how we live and the property we own here

We also had a nice letter from Barbara Neville Parker who spoke of a daughter of a friend who was coming to the summer school here named Wheeler, we haven't seen her as yet. And she also said she was hoping to go out and see you this week. When strangely enough on Saturday we ran into the Formans who have a school in Litchfield Conn. and also a log house in Banff built much like ours. They came for tea & brought her sister and brother-in-Law Tom Williams also of Litchfield. He was a most interesting person telling of collecting paintings and antiques for museums etc. He bought a lot of the paintings for the Korolak collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, in Boston. so I asked if he knew Barbara, He did and was quite incensed to think she had the title of the assistant to the ~~assistant~~ curator of early American etc. etc. when he said she was the greatest authority he knew of. early American painting and especially Copley, and the curator was an Englishman who knew little compared to Barbara. He thinks a lot of her ability. Also spoke of a talk she gave at Williamsburg which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone present. His wife too was quite a person. used to design stage settings for the Fred Astaire shows. "The Band Wagon" and "the Cat and the Fiddle" were her sets, both popular musical comedies. They have two children, the girl went to Smith for one year and didn't like it, and last year spent 9 months in Paris going to a French cooking school. Never heard of that before.

We have developed 10 rolls of color film, starting Sunday night we did 4, then right after an early lunch yesterday another 4 when Annora Brown, Doris Hunt and the MacKenzies came for tea and today the Morants came right after lunch and then Lynn Becker, but she said she would come back later which she did. She is 13 and a great friend of ours, is getting quite grown up. Her sister Lona is going to McGill this year and just got an average of 80 in her final exams and is

Also one of the best skiers and a lovely girl, is to take some special course in therapy instead of nursing.

To-morrow another dentist appointment for Pete at 8 am, a bit early but at least you aren't apt to have to wait long, though one day he got there and the dentist went out for a cup of coffee and to-day he had a flat tire coming down. Then we are to go to Morley to see some of the Indians. one got in a car accident and is in Gaal and they came. (Jonny Bears paw and Jacob Two Youngmen) to see if we could help get him out.

Pete has found out what can be done through the R.C.M.P. here. The weather has been dull, lots of rain this summer, though not steady, just showers.

Heaps of love
Catharine.

Box 270
Banff, Alta.
Sat, Aug. 10, 1957

Dearest Mother,

I missed getting a letter off to you yesterday for we no sooner got back to town than we had callers, Indian and otherwise. I did start a longhand one at Bow Lake but have lost it. It wasn't much anyway.

To go back a bit, we went to Morley Wednesday morning to see the Agent and what could be done about helping one of the younger Indians get out of Jail, where he had landed after an automobile accident. Thought it might mean a lot of waiting around but we met Jacob Twoyoungman at the store and he took us to the Agency where we talked to Mr Hardy and as he was going into Cochrane that same day he said he would enquire there from the police and wire us, which he did by evening, and we wired enough to Lethbridge to get the boy released, for he had his job back so they said. So Wednesday we were back for lunch. Were just cooking it when Benji Willier dropped in, he is from Baltimore and Prof. at Johns Hopkins, bought a large painting of Pete's many years ago, made from the little sketch you have of a larch tree and Cathedral Mt, from high up.

He, his wife and daughter Louise came back at two and stayed all afternoon, we had a nice visit but didn't get packed up for the next trip out. Pearl Moore also came to ask us for Kuualoha to a birthday party at the Mt Royal Friday night on Tom Treadway's 80th birthday, to also say goodbye to all their friends.

So Thursday we were up early and got enough food in the Jeep for a couple of days, we keep the canned food in there. and left in the morning for Moraine Lake, it was a beautiful morning and that seemed the nearest good place to go, first time there this year. Had just gotten to the campground when it started to rain, and first thing we knew the Indian Boy Frank Kaquits spotted us from on top of the rockpile and was

down to see us, The Art classes were up sketching, the ³nuns ^{in his class} too. We just heard to-day that Frank Kaquits had won a scholarship at the School of Fine Arts for next summer, so are very pleased, Mr Lonsdale got one too and both are pupils of Petes, rather a joke!

As it looked as if it would rain all day, and maybe for a week, we thought seeing we were out of town we might as well go up to Bow Lake and see how things were up there. Had a pleasant surprise to find 13 miles of the road with the first coat of paving and the weather was better too, in fact we could both make a sketch, go up to the end of the good road and get back in time for supper. The Simpsons thought we had come for Jim's birthday which they celebrated later in the evening, the cook having made a lovely big birthday cake and all the staff gathering for a party, They have a nice lot of girls this year and one has a lovely voice and sang. So it was quite an evening.

Next morning, Friday, we each made a sketch ^{had lunch} and then were home in time for the callers! Found two nice letters from you. It was funny, but just the night before I had thought of Kitty's niece and wondered if they had ever found a house in Concord as no one had mentioned them, ^{in your letter} and you told of their getting a little house back of the Fenns, How nice for Kitty to have some of her own family nearby.

We had two Indians, Joe Kootenay and Mary MacLean his wife, both a fine young couple, (6 or 7 children too) Joe had come up to drive Frank home and he too is a councilor and was talking to Pete about the younger Indians and some of their problems. Then Verne came about some wood, and I washed that Brown Dress to wear last night and luckily it dried quickly and I was just ironing it when Ed. Goodald a watercolor artist dropped in and made quite a call, he would like to take some lessons from Pete!

We had to dress for supper and Frank came too and we had a big thunder storm as well.

The Birthday party at the Mt. Royal was very nice, about 20 of us, Kuualoa had had flowers sent over from Honolulu and lovely sweet scented pakaki leis for all the ladies, and ~~one~~^{sach} red antherium ^{too} from the center piece. I will enclose the place card. Who except a Hawaiian would think of using a leaf for the purpose, ~~she~~^{she} had sprays of leaves on the table cloth and it looked very pretty. Must have been about 20 of us there. then we all went up to the Vallances for a liqueur and at ten the others, (except for a few like us) went to the ^{Banff Springs} hotel where Moxie Whitney had some of the orchestra play some Hawaiian numbers etc.

This morning we were all on hand at the station to see the Treadways off about 10. Now this afternoon there is a funeral of an old friend, Jennie ^Hedwards, mother of a friend of Pete's who was killed in the war. She has been ill all summer, and to-morrow Carl ^Rungius will be leaving so we are to stay in to see him off, this may be his last summer. Unless he comes back to the opening of a Gallery of his work to be built behind his studio, by Eric Harvie.

Then we hope to get out again. The weather is so unsettled and there has been lots of rain, but lovely ^{cloud} ~~cloud~~ effects which change rapidly.

We had a lovely letter from ^Mercelie ~~telling~~ about her trip to Quebec, she was so good to write us about it. Must have been interesting to see the birds and all.

Must be off to the funeral so all for now.

Heaps of love,

Catharine

Box 370
Banff, Alta.
August 11, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Sunday, and usually a quiet day in ^Summer when no one comes but to-day we were late getting up and then the Huntsingers came. ^He is a partner of Jim Orr's and was a friend of Russell's, has been here before, comes west on business. This time had his wife, daughter and neice, they were about ten and liked looking at things. A nice visit. ^Strangely enough they had been staying at Cowley on the Waldron ranch which a friend of theirs has just bought and that was where we camped two weeks ago the night before we reached the Campbells. ^They thought it lovely country.

Then the Morants came for a short visit. ^We had lunch and went up to see Bill Jamieson in the hospital, he is also a photographer, then to the train to see Carl Rungius off for New York, a sad occasion as he is leaving for the last time, though he says he may come back if Eric Harvie gets the gallery for his drawings and sketches built in back of the studio, ^He would just come for the opening. There were quite a few friends at the station to see him off.

^I also got the laundry and ironing done which I hadn't had time to do yesterday with seeing the Treadways off in the morning and going to a funeral in the afternoon and then to see the Edwards family in the evening.

^We are hoping to get off for a bit of sketching tomorrow early but if it looks as rainy as it does to-night we may not. The weather is so unsettled. This morning so dark and it rained off and on until noon. The Huntsingers were driving to Lake Louise and hoping it might lift, and lift it did after lunch into the loveliest afternoon, clear and just the odd cloud. then this evening clouded over quickly and rained again. Barbara and Jonny were just over after supper but didn't stay too long luckily.

Had a nice letter from Rusty and isn't it exciting to think he is going on the Cruise. Don't know much about it but gather it will be quite a long one if they are to go to Greece and Turkey and maybe Scandanavia too. I suppose they take so many Marines. Let us know if you hear more about it. He said he was leaving the 28th. ^Would be funny if they were in a port that Mildred was in.

^Time to go to bed, but wanted to have some sort of letter to post to-morrow.

^Hope you are feeling better now the weather is cooler it should help.

Lots of love from us both.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Aug. 14, 1957

Dearest Mother,

What a shame you are having another one of those bad feeling spells, Do you suppose they come in cycles of 6 weeks? They say some people feel very poorly every so often, and others have times of great discouragement once a month. Everyone is a little differently made I guess. Do hope you are feeling better now.

Guess you know that Hanne wired this morning but it took ages to get a telephone call through. Guess it is all the tourists and business men who keep the lines busy. She said she would let us know how things go, for of course I can fly on if you need me.

Just This week Pete wrote to Dr Marshall to see when it would be convenient for him to operate on his other eye, for we figured there might be a better chance of a room in the hospital the end of August or first part of September. It was just 4 years ago on August 21st. that the first operation was done. There hadn't been time for a reply from Dr Marshall so Pete telephoned the office this morning, saying to wait until they heard again from us before setting a date. The secretary thought there might be a chance of a room in September.

If he waits until September there would be time for me to fly east for a week with you and maybe Pete could stay up at Bow Lake with the Simpsons while I am away, for I would want to be with ~~him~~ *him* while he is in hospital, and for at least a month or 6 weeks afterward, for it is a trying period to go through and he can't really do much but just rest and wait for the eye to heal. He can't lift things or stoop over etc.

Maybe before you get this I will have told you our plans by phone but just thought it a good idea to let you know what we are doing, and planning. It is hard having an operation like that always ahead of one and Pete has been waiting for nearly a year now.

Hanne wrote that a different eye doctor had been to see you and though he can't do much to improve your sight at least he said it wouldn't hurt for you to use your eyes as much as you liked, for it would make them no worse. I know ~~Mr. Walter~~ Walter Phillips the artist can see less and less, his trouble has been a very slow developing cataract and the doctor told him he could use his eyes as much as he liked, which he has been doing. and now he is to have his operation in another week. The Cataract is just a film that grows over the eye but the sight is perhaps as good as ever behind it.

I will send you the nice letter from Rusty to read, if I can find it. Sounds like a wonderful opportunity for him to go on a trip like that, must get awfully tiresome just being in one camp all the time.

Better get this into the mail so all for now, will enclose some clippings that might interest you.

Loads of love from us both and do hope you are feeling better soon.

Catharine

Box 370
Banff, Alta.
Thurs. Aug. 15, 1957

Dearest Mother,

It made us feel so much better when your wire arrived right after breakfast this morning saying that you were feeling better, I called Kitty last night, as Hanne had said when I spoke to her in the morning that Kitty wanted to ask me something and I thought I could sort of do 2 calls at once. With the 3 hours difference in time in summer I guess you were already having your nap when we telephoned Concord ~~at~~ yesterday morning. We guessed you were better when Kitty said she had lunch with you or sat with you at your lunch. Of course I can fly on anytime in an emergency when you need me, but it seemed best to wait a couple of days this time in case you would rather we come later and perhaps for longer. I think it is just 7 weeks since we left Concord.

X Pete is still hoping to have this eye operation this fall, just how soon we don't know, He telephoned again to Dr. Marshall's office this morning and they will wire when a room is available and if possible write first to give us an approximate time. So we may have a better idea in a few days time. Pete feels once he gets the other eye done he will be freer to move about and can perhaps do more too. They tell us it takes several months to get both eyes focusing together and after the operation itself there is a period when one has to be very quiet, so the eye will heal properly. It is also important that he be in good physical condition before the operation and that is one reason I would rather not go east just now. a person living alone never eats as well and Pete isn't apt to go out for meals, just open a can of something. Anyway we will see how things work out, but it is good and a relief to us to know you are feeling better for you may be over this

let down period. On re-reading Hanne's letter, I am not sure that you did see ~~the~~ Dr. D'Ambrosia about your eyes, I read the letter hurriedly. Hanne said you had an appointment with him that day. Saturday. So I am not quite clear whether he or Dr. March said you could use your eyes to read as much as you liked. So as long as it doesn't give you a headache or something you may get a chance to read more. Have you tried having someone read to you ?

Another thing I was wondering. Have you tried dictating a letter? takes a little time to get used to but once you became accustomed to doing it you might have fun sending such letters to Cousin Jane or me or anyone else. It is just like telling someone a story, only very slowly.

Well this was interrupted by three Indians. Did I tell you last week we went to Morley in the morning to see what could be done about getting one of the young Indians out of Jail ? Son-in-Law of Johnny Bearspaw, had bumped into another car in Calgary at a stop light and the Indians had no insurance, probably poor brakes and I think had been drinking, and the lad ran he was so scared and that is the worst offence. Anyway he had been in Jail a month and 4 more to serve or pay a fine. The Indians naturally couldn't rake up several hundred dollars, but the boy could get his job back at \$300. a month, Anyway we saw the agent, he wired us later to send a certified cheque to the Warden at Lethbridge and to speed things up we wired the money to the boy care of the Warden. Heard later he got out alright. and this morning Johnny brought him up to thank us. Said they had a meeting Sunday night with quite a few there and told them what had happened and they would have to be more careful etc. Said a Banff friend had helped this time , but luckily for us didn't give our names as Johnny said they didn't want the Indians to think they could come to us everytime they got in trouble.

We have had rain most every day, clearing a little now but poured this morning. We think we will try going out each day to paint and not stay overnight, then we will be here for messages or wires. Your wires get delivered soon after nine each morning, our time.

About the National Geographic for August. We get the magazine and thought it a very good number, especially the part about Nova Scotia and the butterflies. Were those the ones you wanted us to read or about the Indians or the Yukon?

Will try to write often and hope you feel better each day, nice to have Kitty and Gale home again, did they like the Adirondaks? and where were they I wonder.

Heaps of love from us both,

Catharine

P.S. It is hard to get through from Banff in summer, so many tourists telephoning the states and the lines are all busy. Wiring is about the best way to reach us for sure.

Box 370
Banff, Alta.
Fri. Aug. 16, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Just a short note to-day, not much to tell you about. When writing yesterday I suddenly thought how stupid I was not to wire how glad we were to hear that you were feeling better, I am so poor at wires and telephones. So we went over and sent a message, now we are looking forward to the letter and ~~also~~ hoping to hear from Dr Marshall what the prospects are for getting a room in the hospital, and how soon. Might be right away and might be September. Always a ~~ix~~ little trying hanging around to hear.

In the meantime Sam Ward is going to put a new roof on the shed as it is so old and saggy it is apt to leak and yet we keep a lot stored there which we have no other place for. We are also thinking of putting a little kitchen, (like a pantry) on at the back as well as a workroom with good light for painting too. Doesn't hurt to plan even if we don't do it this year, but would make it better in lots of ways.

Yesterday we were up at the Morants in the afternoon as we haven't seen much of them lately, they are going on Sunday for a couple of weeks in a caboose at Glacier B.C. ^{to take photos for CPR.} where we stayed in 1916 and there was so much snow we spent the time on the snow sheds watching the trains go underneath. The old hotel is no longer there but they are building the new Trans-Canada through the mountains that way.

Erling Strom of Assinaboine was down at noon and so it goes. No mail at all to-day which is unusual for us.

Had a few clippings to send you but this is the only one I can find just now.

Lots of love and do hope you are really better.

Catharine

Box 370
Banff, Albert
August 17, 1957
Saturday

Dearest Mother,

If I could only be in two places at once everything ~~was~~ would be so easy to plan but as it is we just have to do the best we can. It just happened that we had written Dr Marshall only a week ago asking when he could operate on Pete's eye and that ~~Pat~~ would be ready to go anytime. Then the wire came Tuesday morning saying you were "quite ill and would like to see me!" So Pete called Edmonton and spoke to the secretary and she said they hadn't replied to his letter yet but she thought it might be September before a room was available. So Pete ~~of~~ told her to wait until we let her know. Then next day, Wednesday your wire saying you were "feeling better and to wait for letter." Pete called Dr Marshall's office that day and told the secretary to go ahead and let us know approximately when we might expect a room. She said it was hard to get a private room but she would do her best, and write ^{us} and the hospital would wire when the room was available. Then yesterday a nice letter from Mercelia telling us that she had been to see you and about your message of the newspaper strike. and then today we made a quick trip up and back to Lake Louise to see Dr Link, our old Lake O'Hara freind we haven't seen for ages.

Got back about one and found in the ~~afternoon~~ mail the special delivery letter from Hanne written Thursday (It doesn't come any quicker Special Delivery as we have no phone and doubt ~~if~~ they would phone ^{about} it anyway. However it only took two days so maybe it was faster)

And just as we were eating lunh a wire from Dr Marshall saying they had a private room for Wednesday, August 21st. *means operation would be next Friday probably.*
Pete is so anxious to get the operation over with and has waited so long now that we just hated to put it off again, so we plan

to go to ^HEdmonton Tuesday afternoon late, take the night train from Calgary. Last time Pete was 3 weeks in the hospital but we hope it won't be that long, perhaps two. So he thought I could fly east while he is in the hospital being well looked after we hope, and then be back in time to come home with him and look after things here, for he has to be so careful for a month or more afterwards.

So when we see how things go and how he is feeling after the first few days, I could perhaps catch a plane from ^HEdmonton for Montreal, be in Concord with you for a few days, perhaps a week and then fly back to ^HEdmonton. Otherwise it might be 6 weeks or more before we could make a real long visit.

Once he is OK and can travel about we can go to Concord for a longer trip and maybe that will give you more to look forward to.

Maybe as you perk up you can write me some of the questions, unless it is easier for you to wait until you see me. Ebbs being a lawyer might be able to help on any questions with your Will and I am sure if you want to make any changes, Guido Perera who I expect drew it up, would come out and see you. Sted probably can explain as well as anyone about Wills etc. Was it your Will or Russell's you were wondering about? Sted can tell you all about Russell's for I don't know much about it except what I was told, haven't seen a copy.

Wasn't it good of Wadsworth to write you about Mildreds sailing, can just imagine how excited they were, Probably will be 2 weeks before you get a letter if they are on 11 days before the first port.

Must hurry this over to the mail, but will be wringing again soon. Lots to do here!

Heaps of love from us both and thank everyone for writing such nice letters.

Catharine
My address after you get this letter will be

HOTEL CORONA
EDMONTON
ALBERTA.

Box 270
Banff, Alta.
Sunday Aug. 18, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Just a short note to-day as there are so many things to do if we are leaving for Edmonton Tuesday afternoon, and if we have a chance would like to see the Castles up at Lake Louise for a minute, they come from Honolulu to-day.

Have ~~you~~ you seen the Comet ? Erling Strom was in Friday and said that he noticed a faint little cloud one night below the big dipper but didn't think much about it until someone mentioned it the next night and as it was in exactly the same place he is sure it is the comet. You can see it with your naked eye and I notice in the paper it has been seen in Cambridge. It is below the Big Dipper so not hard to find. Have a look some night. It is the brightest one since 1911.

I think of all sorts of things to ask you or tell you when I am not writing but can't remember after I start. nothing very important I guess.

Wonder did Rusty get home for the weekend ? Hanne said he didn't telephone that night he was going to, just hope he did so you can hear what he will be doing, for in a letter it is hard to find out. Would be funny if he and Mildred were in the same harbors.

"ill send a couple of clippings and try to do better tomorrow. Do hope you are feeling better and if I wait a week or ten days before going to Concord it will give you a chance to think of all the things you want to ask me, and the ones I should ask you.

Heaps of love ,

Catherine ,

Bayliff
Alberta,
Tues. Aug 20 1957

Dearest Mother, never got a chance to write you yesterday, always more things to do at the last minute than one expects. Now Pete is checking a couple of suitcases & I shall try to scribble a few lines as I wait in the jeep.

It was awfully good of you to write yesterday for me not to come until it is easier for me to have ~~my~~ letters & the ones from Concord as well as the ones ^{crossing each other} ~~try to~~ confuse things a bit. Actually when you wrote I don't think you could have gotten my Saturday letter so you wouldn't know we were going to Edmonton sooner than we expected, and of course it could be Dr Marshall would decide not to operate, but if he does operate Pete thinks I might fly east for a few days with you as he will be well looked after in the hospital. Will post this, hope you are feeling better & I will write a real letter first chance I get.

Loads of love
Catharine



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON

CANADA

Thursday -
Aug. 22, 1957

Dearest Mother,

I should have gotten a letter off to you last night but had no paper at the hospital & by the time I got back here the last mail had gone. It's interesting that the more modern we become the less service there is. Fewer mail collections & fewer trains. I suppose because now people wire or telephone hurried things & go by plane or bus - no ink in the room either as everyone has their fountain pen & few write - ink always dries out anyway.

Well for news of us - We left Banff in the late afternoon - took night train from Calgary - strolled around yesterday morning & had a tour of city before going to hospital at 2 PM the usual admittance time. They usually wait one day for tests & checks & I guess to relax the patient & then they expect to operate Friday. Pete still thinks I should take the opportunity to fly east & have a few days with you but I think I should

wait until maybe Tuesday night the 27th
 + then stay with you over Labor Day + come
 back right after the holiday. However I shall
 wait + see how things go to-morrow + how
 Pete feels + gets along. Might telephone you
 Sunday if I get the chance for we are anxious
 to know how you are + will know then about Pete.

It really worked well leaving Pauff on
 Tuesday. gave us time to get organized. We hadn't
 expected as many days warning - Pete had some
 color negative film he was experimenting with +
 wanted to try developing it. So Sunday afternoon
 we worked in the darkroom. No one could tell him
 what processing kit to use so he just took a
 chance. + the pictures were of cloud effects + things
 he could take over. It was very disappointing as
 there were blotches down the center of the whole
 roll. so Pete figured he had wound the film too
 tight on the reel + wanted to try another roll.
 So on Monday we went out + took a roll of
 pictures. he snapping + I trying to write a
 letter to Ruth Beecher to encourage her in
 writing poetry. She lent us her first poems
 to read a couple of weeks ago + I wanted
 to get them back to her. They seem very
 well done to us + we wanted to tell her so.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Then Monday night we developed ~~another~~ ^{this} roll of film. Pete being extra careful loading. Came out just like the first, but you could see signs of the pictures where it was light, seemed to be dark film over the rest & he figured something was lacking in the chemicals he used. It's too new & not yet on the market, only professionals use it. However he is a great experimenter & began to scrape one little picture very gently with his finger nail & the black stuff came off leaving a good color negative. With that he tried wiping the film with methyl-hydrate on cotton wool, & all the black came off & by comparing the negative film left with our Kodacolor negatives for prints, found it looked about right. He was so pleased & excited & I figured it was good to have something like that to occupy his mind instead of having to think of the operation ahead of him.

However when he thought he'd like to try developing the roll he took at the Sundance while we had the developer mixed, by getting up early Tuesday morning I wasn't too keen but thought it worth while & actually we had

plenty of time.

We got up about 7 A.M. + had the film done by 10 o'clock. Sam Ward came to put a new roof on the old garage as it has leaked with the heavy snow + the last man who shovelled it off put his foot through one layer + its only patched. So it was nice to feel that was being done. ~~It~~

We also had callers about 11.30. The George Nobles of Poroka who we knew in Honolulu. with their son who we had never met who is studying law at Dalhousie University.

The afternoon was spent packing, cleaning out the frig etc. We took our bags to be checked + found the trains were all an hour late. So unpacked the box of left overs destined for Mr Scott to eat. + ate half of them for ^{our} supper. Then took an small overnight bag down to the station + left it in a locker. put the jeep away + walked down ourselves. It's not far. a lovely evening. joke was on us. We were so pleased with our plan we never thought to telephone just + the train was another hour late when we reached the station. But hardly worth walking back home again! So we just waited + watched the people. The train made Calgary in an hour + a half so we weren't very late.



J. L. LARDER, Manager

CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON

CANADA

There were 2 Chinese ladies on the day coach & we could see by their bags they had evidently just flown ~~over~~ from China. One had a slip of paper with their destination on it & when they showed it to the Conductor, he kept trying to say the train was so late they had missed their train connection to Lethbridge. He was so nice but helpless as he spoke no Chinese & they could speak no English!

As we neared Calgary where they knew they were to change one lady looked very perturbed & finally armed with her slip of paper spoke to a nice young mother with 3 young kids. Pete knowing how we felt in China (though at least there, some Chinese could speak English) got up & tried to explain we would see they managed alright. She seemed to understand. So when we got off in Calgary they followed Pete & I followed them. All sorts of little parcels & boxes.

There are always C.P.R. Police at the gate so Pete spoke to one of them & explained & he was extra nice to the Chinese ladies & they seemed so glad & last we saw of them they were at the Travellers Aid counter, but were gone when we came back from checking our bags. Pete thought the episode worth the trip.

Had to wait until nearly 11 P.M. to board the
 Edmonton sleeper as they are changing the station
 so soon one can go under the tracks to reach the
 train. We had to wait for the Dominion to pull
 out & then had to walk through the length of an
 train to reach our bedroom. Didn't sleep too
 well but it was O.K.

My ^{hotel} room wasn't ready but we were
 given another to use until leaving for the hospital.
 I'll write more later. Want to catch the
 mail. Hope we hear from you or Harve -
 Loads of love
 Catharine.



J. L. LARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Friday Aug 23, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Your nice letter of the 18th (last Sunday) came from Banff this morning. How nice that Rusty could get home, even if it was for just a day. Harvie's letter came too.

The operation is or was this morning & the usual time (if all goes well) for Pete to be in hospital is two weeks. He is anxious for me to go east & see you while he is being well looked after in the hospital for after he leaves, it will be some time before he can do much & that is when he thinks he will need me most. You can't lean over or pick up things or lift anything heavy for a month or more. He will have to come back to see Dr Marshall after a month or 6 weeks in Banff. So it really will be best for us too. If I make a quick visit now & we can talk over all sorts of things.

In the back of our minds we have an idea next late spring & early summer we would like to go east & get a

new Station Wagon + drive up to New Brunswick
to the Martins & try to take time to sketch there.
It would be near enough Concord to go down
every so often + be with you. So that might
give you something to look forward to!

Tomorrow (after I find out how things
went today) I will see about reservations
on the planes east + then try to telephone on
Sunday when it isn't so hard to get a call
through. We think if I left Edmonton on Tuesday
or Wednesday night (in Concord for lunch the following
day) + then returned right after Labor Day - if
George started his vacation before I left Concord.
Annice knows the way to the Airport. I would
be back here a day or two before it is time to
go home with Pete.

I didn't tell you about the first day here.
we went for a stroll after breakfast + called in
to see Ted Morgan who runs a picture store -
both original paintings + reproductions. He
was in the Air Force with Pete, a nice lad.
He showed us some oil paintings that a man
in Nova Scotia (I think) has done by holding
the brush in his teeth. They are gay + bright
pictures of ships + harbors. Seems he had
polio as a baby + since he was 2 years old
has been paralysed from his neck down.
They had a photograph of him, now 45.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON
CANADA

→ he is cheerful & really a wonderful face -
Sits in a wheel chair & looks as if he had no legs -
his arms sort of withered - a strong neck & head -
his father taught him as a child to paint with
a brush held in his teeth. It's remarkable really -
his father was a blacksmith.

There is a taxi driver who works out from
the Corona. Has lived in Edmonton all his life &
so knows his way about. Took us for a tour of the
city on the way to the hospital. To see the new
buildings etc. One is the City Hall, very modern -
An abstract fountain which has caused lots of
comment. Looks like a lot of huge coat hangers
crumpled together. Some call it "spaghetti" & it
is supposed to represent "geese in flight".
Darndest looking thing. Made of bronze pipe &
the biggest controversy is the cost \$16,000 -
other wise the building is not bad.

at the end of the drive. (including a couple
of fire engines dashing to a fire right beside the
road we were on) we went on a rapid walk
through the new Auditorium. The Provincial
government gave one to Calgary & one to Edmonton
they are as up to date as anything built
today. Started the year of the 50th Anniversary
of Alberta becoming a Province.

A really wonderful hall & huge stage. Like an opera house & below a smaller hall with stage. Lecture rooms etc. Really very well done. The driver was so enthusiastic he rushed us through the building, all the fine dressing rooms & at the end up the stairs to the 2nd Balcony. We got very warm. Then to the hospital nearby - a long walk down a corridor to the admitting room. They are adding all the time to the hospital & still using some old sections.

The usual questions & chest X ray etc for Pete. Then another long walk carrying his bag to the elevator up to the 5th floor to the new Ophthalmic ward. We were both hot by then. He was kept busy & by the time they stuck a thermometer in his mouth, he registered "a slight temperature!" & we think his blood pressure must have risen too.

With all the new rooms, they have the worst congestion in the operating rooms. One to build 14 new ones this year! A young Dr Sutherland who helps Dr Marshall, came to see Pete. A very nice lad, this is Bauff. He said he would book Pete for the operating room, but they were so busy it might not be until Monday! Our hearts sank for 4 days just sitting waiting is a long time. They don't operate on Saturdays or Sundays, except an emergency. However later we heard Pete was



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON
CANADA

booked for Friday & we felt much relieved. They brought me a guest tray for supper & I stayed until 7.30. We were both tired by then, as we had slept too well on the train & it was a tiresome trip in a way.

When I came back to the Corona my room was of course ready. Mr Arden gave me a nice corner room. small but air from 2 sides. & it really was nice to open the door & see a lovely bouquet of flowers on the bureau, from the hotel management.

Yesterday I went out about 2. & found an old friend, fifty, Addinell talking to Pete. He used to teach school in Banff in 1910. Is head Dentist for the Dep't of Veterans Affairs etc. & in another section of the hospital, but will be seeing Pete each day. We asked me over to their house nearby, last evening & then after a nice visit brought me home at 10.30.

Friday night. Have been with Pete all afternoon & evening. The nurse telephoned about 12.45 to say Pete was through the operation & not sleepy & I might as well go over. He slept off & on all afternoon. The effects of the local anesthetic began wearing off & it got a bit painful. so the nurse gave him a couple of pills. for the important thing is to lie still & not turn on your side or raise your head.

It's nerve wracking to me. He began to feel a little nauseated. I pulled the bell mighty quick & a nurse gave him a shot of something quite new. Sounds like Quaal. "gray oil" she called it. Worked right off. Is good for seasickness too.

After that he slept & then was much brighter told me all about the operation. Don't know if he imagines some or not, but said he felt as if Dr Marshall was tearing something off his eye & suddenly he could see the outline of his head & the scissors by his nose. His good eye was closed. Hope it wasn't that one he was looking with. Dr Marshall told him he behaved very well!

I have just come home, washed out the clothes & now am ready for bed. Will write again tomorrow.

Lots of love & so glad you are feeling better. Will see you soon -
Catherine.

Corona Hotel
Edmonton.
August 24, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Another nice letter from you to-day - now of course you have had a letter about our coming up here. Things happen so quickly - we change our minds most every day!

Yesterday was the operation - though Pete slept quite a bit. He was bright & joking when he did wake up. I left about 8:30 in the evening as he was sleepy. Took a taxi back. The driver a Scotch lad. in Canada 10 years, came from where Mrs Simpson lived, just across from Asbestos. Rather interesting. But both taxis I have taken each driver has opened the front door. Shows how times have changed. I like it better that way sitting in front seat.

This morning first thing I went down to the Trans Canada Airlines to see what reservations could be made. The planes all seem to be heavily booked next week, so they will let me know. Did a few errands & then to the hospital after an

early lunch. Tip-toed into Pete's room
in case he were sleeping. The bed was
empty & he was sitting in a chair -
I couldn't believe it. For last time he
was flat on his back for several
days & in bed a week or 10 days - ^{24 days}
longer than because of that haemorrhage ^{in hospital.}
But this time up within 24 hours.
They figure the eye heals quicker. They
put more stitches in, but most of them
absorb & don't have to be taken out later.
Just one to be pulled out in 5 days time.

Pete was pleased & has been
sitting up a good part of the day
ly up down & napping too. The nurse
said the usual time in hospital for
cataract is 10 days. Some go home
in a week. So now my time for
flying east is cut shorter & I'm
not sure if I should go or not.
Anyway will try telephoning you
to-morrow & if you are feeling
pretty good, perhaps it would be
best to postpone the trip until
later this fall. Maybe we can
travel sooner too, now that the
rest is speeded up. Maybe the
time being quiet at home will be too.

In the meantime thought I would keep the letters going to you.

About your Will. Have you thought of getting someone like Sted or Ebb to set down & talk over what you want to change or make sure of. I expect it is the memorandum part which I often change in mine. While you told them what you have in mind they would write it down for you or explain things. I expect Ebb would be used to it. For he does lots of Wills for people. He could even write me for you. any questions you want to ask. Save you trying to think so hard.

Never noticed the clipping about Miss Frede Morrison until later. Guess it was really a blessing. & Phil Davis. Hard to realize he has gone. How good he used to be in the Concord Players. Imagine Mrs Solier will be with Mrs Davis a lot.

Soon time for me to go back to the hotel. Pete is snoring. I've written 13 letters this afternoon & my head is woozy.

Loads of love
Catharine.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON

CANADA

Sunday -
Aug. 25, 1957

Just finished telephoning you -
wasn't it clear? Sunday it
is easy to get a line right
through as there are no business
calls as there are the middle
of the week. You sounded fine
& I could even hear Mercedes
helping you to the phone so
to speak.

This is race week in Edmonton.
Last day to-morrow so I imagine
that is why the planes are so
heavily booked. On the radio
last night it said there had
been delays for some crunk
had telephoned TCA & said
no Viscount (that's the name of

the plane) will reach Winnipeg
to-day. There's a bomb aboard.
So then they have to search all
the planes & the passengers
baggage too to make sure. &
they have a good idea it's just
another crack. but just the
same they daren't take a chance.
Not a pleasant feeling to fly
under those circumstances -

Surely by Thanksgiving
we will be able to travel -
Must write business letters

now -

Loads of love

Catherine -

P.S. I found Madsworth's letter
yesterday. don't know if I
sent it or not. couldn't locate
it this morning. So glad you
have heard from Mildred -
can imagine how lovely her
letters will be & what fun



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Mon. Aug 26 1957

Dearest Mother,

Just a note as I
am soon going out to do some
errands. A short letter from you
today written Friday. But of
course since then we've spoken
on the phone. Also a nice
newsy letter from Miss Burdett,

But I know more
about the family than you do or
maybe just than you have told
me. Galesia at Martha's Vineyard
& in 2nd week in September is
going on a cruise ~~off~~ the Maine
Coast & may see Billy Spurling.

Miss Burdett
also hopes to see him as she too

is going to Maine this week.
+ then to Herkimer N.H. for
Labor Day weekend. never heard
of that place.

Things are going on well
here. Pete said when they
took the bandage off yesterday
he could see as well with
his new eye as with the
old + what pleases him.
the color is so very clear +
sparkling. He said Dr
Marshall called in the nurses
to see the eye he operated
on 4 years ago. said it was
the most perfect one he
had done. but didn't
mention how the new one
is. But last time with
the haemorage it must
have blocked the sight at first.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Last evening Dennis & Sophie
Nighell, our old friends here,
came & picked me up at the
hospital & I spent a very
nice evening with them.
Their daughter Virginia, who
you sent the ballet book to,
was there with the young
law student she is just
engaged to. Barry Vogel.
Gimme was in Lee, Mass.
this summer at the Ted
Shaun dancing school &
loved it.

No idea how soon
we will be going home. We'll
let you know. Better start

writing to Bauff by this
Friday the 30th as we
should be going home for Labor
day or soon after if things
go well.

Looks like rain... so
I'd better get out before it
starts.

Loads of love Mother
& thanks so much for not
wanting me to come now.
You are the best sport at
9'2 - Think the time would
drag for Pete though he is
very patient about just
sitting & thinking & not
wiping his eyes!

Mae love

Catharine



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Tuesday
Aug 27, 1957

Dearest Mother

Will get warmed up by writing you first. Have a long letter to write to Guido Perera in answer to one of his & a whole pile of others to write!

Actually it is just as well I didn't try to go east. Think the time would have dragged for Pete as he has to first sit, can't use his good eye as it tires the other & also he can't get his glasses on over the big tin thing they put over the bandage. So all he can see is way out of focus. He has the little radio & uses that quite a bit.

Dr Marshall told him the eye was coming along nicely but no word when we may go home. Too early to tell. We picked the best time to be in the hospital. Usually it has 30 patients in the Ophthalmic ward & there are only 15, the fewest they have had.

Zona Paris a girl from Bayuff was in yesterday. She is in training for first year, & Nifty Addinell the ex school teacher. He is fun & awfully nice. He was talking about Peaches who is Minister of Defence in the new Canadian Gov't. He knew him & worked under him in 2 wars. The night before at the Michells we had been talking about the Stockands. & funny thing happened. After supper I was in the bathroom & thought, I must try to answer Cameron Stockands letter when I go back to the hotel. He is Lela's (Pete's sister) husband & has just been promoted as night news editor for CBC at the coast



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON
CANADA

When I came out of the bathroom Pat had turned the radio on for the 7 o'clock news & said "Guess what. Doug Campbell has just signed off on some program. He is Marian Stokland's husband & an announcer for the Can. Broadcasters Corp. We thought that quite a coincidence seeing ~~we~~ I was just thinking of them. So listened to the news & then News Roundup. Part of it was Cameron Stokland interviewing Peaches about the new Russian Guided Missile. It seemed funny hearing his voice there in the hospital.

Another thing I thought of. Had I gone east now Miss Benditt would have been away on holiday & maybe Jim Orr too. So couldn't have done anything in the office.

Later. Your letter of last Saturday first came. It's nice hearing from you each day & so glad you are feeling better & were feeling good that day. I didn't wince about Pete for they don't know how successful it is right off & even the next day when they first look at it - it's hard to tell. Dr Marshall doesn't say much but yesterday he did remark "The eye is doing nicely." So that's encouraging.

Also I didn't know myself until Friday afternoon how the operation went & no place to write from the Hospital. Knew I was to telephone on Sunday -

Cold & rainy here. Have the steam heat on. 4 years ago it was awfully hot.

Heaps of love

Catharine

P.S. - We haven't seen the Comet either. To send us Mildred's letters to read -



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Wednesday,
Aug 28 1957

Dearest Mother.

Another nice letter from you this morning, always good to find in the box each day. & it's the one from Cousin Jane. Looks as if she might be visiting you - she has such a wonderful outlook on life.

Shall be anxious to read Mildred's letters - see in the paper where Mt. St. Helens is having an eruption. Am sure she will go fairly near & be able to see it. Hope the Mediterranean doesn't put on too many explosions!

Rele had the one stilet pulled out yesterday. a long

or rather large stitches. The others are supposed to absorb. Don't think it was a very pleasant episode when you have a vivid imagination.

Glad I stayed for he has to sit & can't really see well enough without glasses to look at any thing or any body. Everything being so out of focus without a lens to look through. Once the big tin over the bandage on the new eye is off he will be able to wear his glasses. If it doesn't tire his eye too much.

He has a little radio & enjoys that. Last time the cleaning girl & ~~nurses~~ ^{ward} aide enjoyed his jokes & spent their time in his room, but this time it's a larger ward & else they aren't quite as sociable. Actually it is very slack right now, only 15



CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON

CANADA

J. L. ARDERN, Manager

patients instead of 30 on the
Ophthalmic ward. This wing of
the hospital has only been opened
2 months, some rooms not
furnished yet.

I never did finish this as
Lona Paris & her friend, a fellow
nurse came to lunch with me.
She is from Banff, was in Harold's
class.

No word of when we may go
home. In looking at Pete's eye to-
day Dr Marshall said "The operation
was a week ago," & Pete said "no
Friday", so he was quite pleased
at its progress.

Not much to tell you about
so will send it along -

Lots of love from us both
Catherine.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Thursday
August 29 1957

Dearest Mother,

You are so good to write each day. Means a lot to us. I'm busy catching up on letters & just answered one from Brad Washburn. They must be home by now, or on their way. Too bad they struck such poor weather in the Alps but the best of their trip must have been interesting. They sent us several cards which we thought awfully good of them to take the time.

Wonder how the new building at the Science Museum is getting on? I expect they will need a lot of money & gifts to finish it. Wasn't

Russell the head of some
 fund raising committee
 for the Science Museum? I
 have been trying to think of
 something we could do sort
 of for Russell's sake for the
 Museum as he seemed to be
 more interested in that than
 anything. Have you any
 plans or ideas? We can
 talk about it when we go
 east. It's always hard to find
 a project that equals what
 one ~~ones~~ wants to give. Must
 ask Brad what kind of things
 in connection with the Museum
 most interested Russell.

Later Didn't get this finished
 this morning. Am at the hospital
 now. Your nice letter to Pete
 came this morning. He was
 pleased to hear from you direct.
 He wrote it the first day in the



CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON

CANADA

J. L. ARDERN, Manager

hospital before the operation -
 It's interesting how the different
 doctors do things. Must have been very
 hard for Aunt Julie to have to wait
 so long before being operated on. & just
 sitting waiting. or rather lying
 waiting. How is she after her trip
 to Bradford? & what about all
 the Palmers? you haven't mentioned
 them. But by now they will be
 home for school starts.

To-morrow Pete hopes to get
 the big bandage off. It's rather
 bulky taped on with Scotch
 Tape. After its off Pete can use
 his glasses which will help a
 lot.

My letters get pretty stupid -
 as I don't do much. write a few
 letters. Go & do some errands in
 the morning. Lunch before 12 &
 take the bus over here & set until
 after 8 & back to the hotel.
 Loads of love Catharine.

Betty write to Dauff after
you get this.

Coronal Hotel
Edmonton, Alta.
Fri. Aug 30, 1957

Dearest Mother

Pete may be snoozing. He is stretched out on his bed anyway & it seems a good chance to write a bit to you. Hospitals are funny places. They always seem to be coming in & out, one interruption after another & it's even hard to find time to read the paper! Fruit juice. The new nurses coming on duty either introduce themselves at 3 or say hello. Ice for the water jar. The cleaning person. The menu to make for 2 days ahead etc. They bring me a guest tray each night so I can eat supper with Pete.

Each day is much the same - I write letters or do some errands, have an early lunch, take a bus over about one o'clock. We eat a 5 o'clock. listen to the news at 7 & soon after 8 I take the bus back to the hotel.

A wonderful mail this A.M.

Don't wonder you are confused getting letters ~~after~~ saying I might come, soon after telephoning to say I wouldn't go! Actually we originally thought it might be a good chance for me to fly east while Pete is in the hospital if you weren't feeling well. But then when he was to be here less than 2 weeks & you were

much better & there was no room on the planes anyway. we decided to postpone the trip, as you suggested until we can both go later this fall. Will first wait & see how everything goes.

It is just a week today that the operation took place & this morning the doctor took the tin lid thing off that protects the bandage. So he can almost get his glasses on. But not well enough to see easily. Looks as if he would be here until after the weekend.

I'm just as glad for the Labor Day weekend is a poor time to travel with school starting on Tuesday. also I might get those letters written! have reduced the pile by quite a bit.

A very nice letter from Anne too. please thank her. & a lovely one from Gale telling of Rusty's plans. How wonderful for him to get the chance of a cruise like that even if he will be away for a time. it will shorten the period of training for him & be a great experience.

How do the Miss Stinsons like Monument St? & how is Miss Morrison? Maybe she got away to Cranberry Island for a few weeks.

Lots of love from us both
Catherine

Corona Hotel
Edmonton.
Sat Aug 31, 1957

Dearest Mother,

My letters can't be very exciting as each day seems much the same. Looks as if Pete would be here for several days yet. They don't allow him to get in a bath tub for 2 weeks after the operation. It shows how careful one has to be. He can now get his glasses on over & around the bandage on his right eye so he could read his mail this morning himself. & strangely enough it was the first time mail has come here. Most of it comes to me at the hotel & as we hadn't told anyone in Banff about the possible operation they are only just finding out.

One of his letters was an amusing card from Kitty with a little note. We had gotten Gales large letter yesterday - he also had cards from Timmy & Ian which I should enclose for you to see. from Cowley.
Amyra Brown the artist & Miss Hunt her friend -

who spent a week sketching from
 our cabin. were going to the Ranch
 last weekend & hang their paintings
 in the cabin. Then Gray & Chanor
 invited ranchers they knew would
 be interested. From miles around
 to see her work. It evidently worked
 well for as you said "Piles of
 cans" & they sold lots of pictures.

Yesterday I had quite a busy
 morning. took the camera & got
 some shots of the funny new
 fountain at the city hall (Saw
 in the paper later there is a competition
 on prizes given for best photo of it.)
 So they will think I am entering it.)
 Then to the CNR Station to see their
 Museum train. It goes all over the
 country. 3 engines & some old coaches
 & several baggage cars filled with
 exhibits. You go in one end & out the
 other - The exhibits included old tickets,
 pictures, menus & all sorts of things
 connected with railroading. Then
 a funny old sleeping car with stoves
 at either end, very plushy & roobuds

on the carpet. The upper berths when closed were painted white with gold in raised or carved wood work, very elegant. Also an ever older day coach. A fine old diner & on the tables under glass were all the silver services from the various railroads. All really well designed & some quite lovely.

The oldest engine was what interested me the most, a wood burner built in 1870 by the Portland Co. & I have a feeling Uncle Fred Morse worked there about that time. I'm going to send Cousin Jane a folder of it. Took several pictures but it was on the shady side.

From there I walked back & stopped in one place where the steel structure for a new 12 story building is going up. A tremendous crane lifts the huge pieces of steel up to the 6th floor & then on that floor (which is nothing but wooden planks ~~on~~ from one steel beam to the next) is a truck also with a huge crane on it, which lifts the steel from there up another 6 floors. This truck had to be

hoisted up the other day in pieces & reassembled. The crane I guess was in pieces. It was fun to watch & not more than 6 men on the 6th floor level & above. They worked slowly & carefully but have done most of it since we came. Even have a metal stairway that goes up as the floors do.

I had hoped for nice cloud effects but so far this week we have had clear days. cloudy & overcast today.

wanted to finish the roll in the camera so took some pictures anyway. One of the men noticed me & took off his helmet (they wear the kind soldiers used to use) & bowed. Then he shouted to the ones sitting astraddle a beam about 12 stories in the air & they stopped what they were doing & waved their hats in the air. I guess they all love being photographed but I was afraid of slowing up progress & luckily came to the end of the roll.

Pete is having a nice snooze while I write this & I'll bet someone comes & wakes him up. Hospitals are so funny that way - if you close the door almost shut to keep the noise of a radio or loud voices out, they knock which wakes you. Then it's only to put ice in the water jug or something not too important and if the door is open they walk in any way.

Miss Anderson the young head nurse is from Kingston Jamaica & very nice. The others are all student nurses in various degrees of training. Some better than others.

Another nice letter from you to-day & a card from Mildred in Italy. Will send that when I find a large enough envelope.

So ads of love from us both.

Catherine

Later
P.S. Mrs Marshall has just telephoned me at the hotel to ask me to dinner to-morrow night at the Country Club. which is good of them.

Please return postcards.
See if you like hair nets?



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Sunday -
Sept 1, 1957

Dearest Mother.

X Just thought I would
telephone you this morning the
connection was so clear last week.
but guess I'm not much good
on a phone, couldn't really think
of much to say. Maybe you & I
do better writing. After all we've
had 27 years experience. at
175 letters a year - or say 150
it's over 4000 letters! Well
X maybe not quite that many.
It's been a quiet
day. I wrote 4 overseas ones this
morning. then to the hospital.
X Mrs Marshall had asked me

for dinner tonight with them.
 Dr M. picked me up at the
 hospital before 7 o'clock. Then
 to their house over looking the
 river valley. a lovely garden &
 lawn. We had brought some
 sketches Pete has done since
 his first operation, so they
 looked at those as Pete had
 promised them "one for each eye" x
 Then to the Mayfair Country Club
 for a big dinner. filet mignon
 etc. Then a drive home to see
 the new shopping center & the City
 Hall & fountain which is much
 nicer at night with colored
 lights. Still don't think
 it is worth \$16 000! & back
 here, as we stepped out of
 the Club the most beautiful



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL

EDMONTON
CANADA

Northern lights sweeping across
the sky - like this. Well more



graceful
than that
& like

green fringe. really lovely.
Now it's nearly 11 o'clock & time
for bed.

I asked Dr Marshall when
Pete would be going home & he
said he would like him to stay
another week if possible. Had
we lived in Edmonton we could
be home now. but seeing it is
so far to Bayuff, he would feel
safer if we could stay longer.
& of course we can. "The eye
is coming on nicely."

Mrs Marshall is an artist
 & a most attractive person &
 their house is full of lovely
 pictures - paintings by various
 people we know - It was a
 wonderful evening for me -
 and sure I have enough
 letters to write to keep me
 busy for a week. It's slow
 work.

May wire you, so you can
 air mail us Mildred's letters
 to the Hotel Corona.

It was good to hear your
 voice & how nice if Cousin
 Jane can come & stay with
 Mercedes & then visit you
 a little each day. Hope you
 got hold of her by phone.

Loads of love & you
 can write here until say
 Friday the 6th - It was lovely
 & warm today. Catharine.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Labour Day
Sept 2 1957

Dearest Mother,

Hospitals are such funny places & the first of the war it seemed as if some one was always barging in whenever Pete started to have a snooze. Just enough noise or a cheery remark & he was wide awake.

The last few days there aren't as many ward aides & young nurses, so he waits until the girls who come on at 3 have reported & we have been served mid afternoon fruit juice (I get in on it too) & then he sleeps for a real nap! Has worked well this weekend.

Dr Marshall seemed pleased with his eye this morning & told him he thought we could go home by the end of the week. He had said to "stay for another week" to me. But perhaps by Friday or Saturday we can head home.

It takes just 2 days for one of your letters. Really quick as we are on the air route here. So you could write here until Thursday Sept. 5th. That is mail anything you write after the 5th to Bauff.

I would have had time to fly east while Pete was here in the hospital but I think he would have found it even longer all by himself, though the girls are very nice. Some are so serious they don't realize half the time when he is joking.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Dennis Nighell came to see him last evening & when he questioned Pete about just setting. Pete said he told him that from experience with the first ^{time} the knew it was something so worth while that he didn't mind being patent & just waiting during this period.

Today there is a big machine that lifts the big square blocks of cement sidewalk out of place, then up in the air & onto a waiting truck. They had already lifted up half a block (3 blocks of cement wide) of the old sidewalk in front of the Corona by noon. will have finished by tonight I guess. Going to lay a new one. Full to water. I was interested for the truck drivers then came in for lunch where I was eating in the Corona Coffee Shop. Very clean nice lads too. The Coffee shop is brand new & most attractive connected with hotel.

Something else I was going to tell
you & can't remember!

Loads of love from us both .

Catherine .

Corona Hotel.
Edmonton.
Sept. 3, 1957

Dearest Mother.

Not really much to write about as each day is so much alike. The weather was lovely over the holiday which was nice. + today though over cast was warm + no rain yet.

I'm reading Maza de la Roche's Autobiography. Have you read it yet? or do they have it at the library? If not will send you mine. She is the one who wrote the Jalna books you liked + Whiteoaks.

The gardens in Edmonton are lovely + bright. All the flowers seem to bloom in concentrated profusion of brilliant colors. Beds are very gay. Nothing straggly. Stock. Petunias + snap dragon. There are lots of trees here too. Not tall but makes the whole place green. Very attractive modern buildings.

Pete still has a bandage over his eye + each day we think it may come off. but Dr Marshall never hurries. He said he preferred to wait several months before prescribing for

glasses as one had the best results
that way. He drives a car in the
same way. Waits for all the traffic to
pass & takes his time. What difference
if it takes a minute longer if you
get there relaxed & safe.

Maybe there will be more to write
of tomorrow.

Loads of love from us both
Catherine.

Edmonton.
Sept 4. 1957.

Dearest Mother, -
First of all when I telephoned
you at 12 noon last Sunday it was 9 A M here
first after I came up from breakfast - 3 hours
difference in time when you have daylight
savings and 2 hours later in the year.

Do you really think they
will cut all the trees at the back of the
house or just the highest ones? Pete
heard on the radio that some English-
man is perfecting some device to take
the noise out of the jets. so perhaps
in a year or two it won't seem as
bad. I expect it is that new runway
they were to build that is causing
the trouble - why not ask Stud if any-
thing can be done about it.

Had a nice letter from
you when I went home last night.
Am glad you walk to the end of the
lawn with Harrie. The more effort
you make the less you will stiffen
up & then when there is something
extra special you want to do, you
will find you can. Am glad you
aren't like Mrs Pepper -

Mercelia wrote 2 nice letters that
came to-day. So glad Cousin Jane
is to spend the weekend with her.
Then she said she was going to see
her family in New York.

To-day I went for lunch with
old friends. Dorothy Weldon & her
daughter Nona. who have lived here
a long time. They picked me up &
we had lunch at the Mayfair
Country Club. Like being way out.
Yet it isn't 5 minutes from the
center of the city.

She pointed out one of the
houses in the distant view. said
a friend Mrs. Prescott lived there.
When a little girl she had lived
in the old fort here. right within
its walls. She has seen quite
a change in her life time.

Pete has his bandage off &
wears dark glasses. one more step
ahead. He can see better now.
He thinks we may go home before
the weekend.

Soads of love from us both,
Catharine.

If this reaches you in time give our love to Cousin Jane.

Thanks for interesting clipping
about International House in N.Y.
We have known people there.

Edmonton.
Sept 5, 1957
Thursday -

Dearest Mother,

Still here. Though Dr
Marshall is very pleased with the way
Pete's eye is coming on. He just wants
Pete to be where he can keep check
for once we go home it will be several
weeks before we return.

Evidently some
cataracts are operated on so the
pupil stays the same. But the
kind Pete's is, is done so the
pupil will still dilate I think.
Which naturally is best for a
younger person.

Your nice letter
with the 3 from Mildred came to-
day & they are great fun to read.
Wasn't it exciting their going
through the Agores? That's the
fun of a boat. Mildred & her
friend seem to get such a
kick out of everything. When

we get back to Bayff will you
send us the cards to read & see.
we know some of the places.

One of the new nurses, just
through 1st year was telling us
about going to Youth Hostels in
Europe last year with another
girl. They spent 7 months &
visited England, Scotland, France
Germany, Holland, Belgium,
Switzerland, Spain, Italy and
Yugoslavia. Cost them less than
\$12.00 for passage too, 25¢ a
night at the hostels where they
could cook too. They made stews
each evening, had cheese, jam
& sausage with rolls for lunch
on the way & she gained 7 lbs.
She is just a young little thing
& so pretty. They had a wonderful
trip.

Just had a telephone from
the Nighalls to go over there to-
night after I leave here at 8 P.M.

Yesterday Dorothy Welden & Nana came for me at the Corona & drove me to Mayfair the Country Club for a pleasant lunch. They are leaving next week for the east & hope to see the Autumn foliage in Maritime & down through New England.

Had a wonderful long letter from Frances. We really appreciated her writing so much. Very amusing about the lady who looks after Mr. Bibbards Studio. How nice of her to take his afternoon off for a couple of weeks. Might be a good idea for all business men in summer.

Thanks too for Cousin James letters about the cats & how is your little kitten? Why not name it some name that can do for either boy or girl, like "Snowball" or "Fluff" or "Spunky".

Pete is having a snooze so should try to write a couple of letters. Did a few errands this morning & it always takes time. Only a few blocks - so one walk.

Hugs of love

Catherine



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Fri. Sept. 6, 1957

Dearest Mother-

x Pete telephoned
me this morning at the hotel
and Dr Marshall said he
could go home to-morrow.
So we are quite tickled -
I will pick him up to-
morrow sometime & keep
my room at the hotel so
we can use it until we
take the train to Calgary to-
morrow night. Then an
x early Sunday morning
train to Banff. That seemed
to be the easiest way.

Shall give Kitty a call
when I get back to the hotel
this evening & see how
you are. We felt so sorry
you weren't feeling very good,
for last week you sounded
much better. I guess you
will have your ups &
downs. & just hope they
are mostly ups. It was
good to know Dr Payer
was there & found you
better.

If it helps any
to know, when we come
for our visit this fall
it will be for longer
than just a week -



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

so that will give you something
to look forward to. The time
slips by pretty fast so it
won't be too long until we
can go. Just depends on
how soon Dr Marshall wants
Pete to return for a check -

Not much of a letter this
time - Was out at the Michells
real late last night seeing
another old friend who now
lives in California & is visiting
here.

Loads of love to your mother
from us both & we are think-
ing of you such a lot.
Catharine.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Saturday.
Sept. 7, 1957

Dearest Mother.

We are almost ready for supper and then take the night train to Calgary. It rained hard this morning so took a taxi over to get Pete. He was all ready with the drops for his eye 4 times a day. Another bottle twice a week. They will be the hardest to remember.

Came back here to the Corona & took things leisurely. After lunch

packed the suitcases. Had to buy a small one the other day to hold things we had bought. Then we went to the station to pick up our reservation + checked all but one overnight bag. I have been sitting reading the paper since return to hotel.

Pete was 17 days in the hospital - 2^{days} before the operation + 2 weeks after.

I probably will try + telephone from Bayff on Sunday + see how you are getting on. Called last evening to the nurse. (Miss Wack it sounded like) sounded so nice + pleasant it made me feel better to



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

think some one like that was
looking after you so as to give
you some rest. We are
hoping by the time you get
this you are really feeling
better.

Thought I would just
keep writing you each day
so if you want mail it
will be coming pretty
regularly.

Loads of love to you
mother & we do hope you
are feeling better.

Pete sends lots of
love too.

Catherine.

Bauff.
Monday.
Sept 9, 1957

Dearest Mother.

Just a hurried note so you will get a letter from Bauff + know for sure we are home safe + sound.

The trip worked well. Pete came over to the Corona before lunch. we had a quiet afternoon while I packed. Then checked our bags - had supper + Dennis Michall came over. a nice visit with him. Boarded the night train at 10 P.M.

Woke up at 6 AM in Calgary. Had time for breakfast. met another friend having coffee. Ken Liddell who writes for the Herald. (Calgary Herald) Train was on time. a beautiful morning. Got to Bauff about 10 o'clock. Walked up from the station. not far. then went back to the Jeep for checked bags - Saw Mr Scott who looks after our house when away. Picked up hot chicken pies etc at the Delicatessen.

for lunch. Then we both got so sleepy
we had a snooze for over an hour.

Later took a short drive & then ~~the~~
Nick Morant came & showed us some
colored pictures of the hotel he has
taken. His wife "Willie" has written
you a letter about how they live in
a caboose when taking pictures of
the trains for the C.P.R. Thought you
might be interested.

We went to bed at 8.30 last
night. Sam Ward was down this
morning & we also did a number
of errands. & Verne Castella.

Then after lunch Frank Reginto
the Indian Boy came with some
paintings. Didn't know we had
been away. & Rita Crieke who had
her Cataract removed by Dr Marshall.
& compare notes with Pete.

Then Verne to work on the back
of the jeep changing the boxes &
putting a seat back in. Then Jim
Simpson from Bow Lake & then
Eldon Walls who looks after every-

thing here for us. He has just gone
+ I am writing this in the jeep -
waiting while Pete speaks to Dr
Pat Costigan

Here he is now so we'll send
this along so you will know about

us. Do hope you are feeling ever
so much better - we think of you
often + are sorry we can't do more
just now to help.

Loads of love

Catharine

Banff,
Alberta.
Thurs. Sept. 12, 1957

Dearest Mother,

We have been home just three days and have been kept rather busy with friends dropping in. Pete has felt fine and is careful not to use his eyes too much, so I do all the driving and such like.

We are so glad to hear that you are sitting up and feeling better, and hope that you will continue to improve each day so that you can enjoy seeing your friends and the little every day pleasures.

The weather has been very unsettled since we got home, not too cold and only a few showers but we are hoping for real Indian Summer weather soon. The trees are turning yellow already.

Had our first real fresh garden peas yesterday and they did taste good. Don't know how long they have had them in the store, but hope there isn't too much frost to stop them growing.

I will try to write you a short note each day, so you will know we are thinking of you.

Lots of love from us both,

Catherine .

Just had a nice letter from Harriet & Edith Mouse answering all the questions I have asked you below.

Banff
Alberta.
Sept. 13, 1957

Dearest Mother,

It is the most beautiful fall day here, very bright blue sky and the leaves turning yellow fast. A little later we may go out for a bit as it is really too nice to stay in.

The Mighalls are coming from Edmonton for the weekend, we have reserved rooms for them at the Homestead Hotel nearby, so Dennis and Sophie can walk to see their friends, and Virginia with Barry Vogel who she is engaged to, can take the car. Just hope it stays nice weather.

Had a nice note from Aunt Julie written on Monday, Wonder if Edith was up to see you, as I think it was Tuesdays she used to drive out. Wonder has Bob a house or suite for the winter, expect they are settled by now.

We had a quiet day yesterday but the day before 9 different people came to see us about all sorts of things, ending with Mrs Painter for tea and Eldon Walls and even a couple in the evening. Yesterday I managed to tidy upstairs and today got the front room cleaned and dusted. My desk still in the usual mess.

Do hope you are feeling better each day and having the lovely weather we are.

Loads of love

Catherine

Banff,
Alberta.
Sept. 14, 1957

Dearest Mother,

We have just had the loveliest fall days yesterday and this morning but this afternoon the wind is from the north and it is supposed to get overcast again.

Our friends drove down from ^{Edmonton} ~~Edmonton~~ ~~last~~ yesterday afternoon, getting here last night and all came over this morning. Dennis Mighall was with the RCMP in Banff before we were married, later in Edmonton and now in the lumber business, making frequent trips up north. His wife Sophie is a great athlete, ~~she~~ plays tennis and swims and a great sport. The daughter Virginia is quite a dancer, just a year ~~out~~ of high school. She went to the summer school of dancing at Jacobs Pillow near Lenox in the Berkshires, She is also a great ballet dancer, lots of personality. Now has a job with the Recreational Dep't. for the city of Edmonton with 12 leaders under her. They go to different community centers in the suburbs where free classes are given in various types of dancing and she figures out all the programs etc. Then Barry Vogel who she is engaged to, a young law student at the Univ. of Alberta.

They are having a look around Banff and we expect them back later and to dinner to-morrow. Mary Lee Mather may come over too. She has just won a Hotel scholarship worth \$500. and is going to the University

this winter. We are very proud of her. She is Susan Mathers sister and we have known her well.

Shall try to phone to-morrow and just see how you are getting on, for it seems a long time between letters. Hanne says Sted comes to see you every day which must be nice for you too. I bet he remembers way back when he was a little boy and how good you and father were to him. For he must have been pretty small when he lost his mother.

Lots of love from us both and do hope you are feeling better each day.

Catharine .

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Sept. 15, 1957

Dearest Mother,

It was really wonderful to get a letter from you, but don't you try to write until you are feeling really strong. You know you wrote us every day while we were in Edmonton, so in a way you are a lot of letters ahead. Hanne has written us too, and Cousin Alma & long letters from Frances, and Mercelia last weekend and today a nice letter from Kitty telling what the Doctor had said, so all in all we are getting news of you. Edith and Aunt Julie also wrote this week. I have telephoned several times and will again later to-day, As that brings us right up to date on how you are feeling.

The weather is just perfect. Warm sunshine and very blue sky and the trees yellow and gold. The river in front of the house a clear, beautiful green. We have had a busy weekend with the Mighalls from Edmonton here. They came Friday night, Dennis & Sophie, their daughter and the young law student she is engaged to. They are staying in a motel near by. Came around yesterday morning, again last evening and to-day we cooked them a big steak dinner with fresh peas and then they started back home. So glad the weather was nice for them. Mary Lee Mather came over for dinner too, her father was a great friend of Dennis Mighalls and as Mary Lee is going to University this fall in Edmonton we were glad to have her meet them. Virginia

is to meet Mary Lee's train Saturday and help her find a place to live, as she is too late to get into the girl's dormitory. She just won a scholarship of \$500.

We had other callers too yesterday, the Turners from Calgary who ran the Art Gallery and Pete Tasker the Game Warden from Bow Lake who has just been transferred to Banff and only heard a day or two ago that he can get a house to live in so is very pleased. We also went up to see an elderly lady who is to have a cataract operation soon and was rather worried, so someone asked if Pete would go and reassure her a bit, which he did. She can't see at all now so hope the operation helps her.

We think of you very often and wish we could be with you but perhaps it will be best for us to come when you are stronger and can enjoy a visit more. We have already been back in Banff ~~xxxx~~ a week to-day and 3 weeks since the operation. Pete has to rest his eyes quite a bit but feels they are much stronger each day.

Heaps of love mother, from us both and we hope you are feeling better.

Catharine .

Box 370
Banff, Alta.
Mon. Sept. 16, 1957

Dearest Mother,

This morning we woke to find it dull and looking like rain but now after lunch though the wind is still from the northeast it is clearing and some sun. It is fairly warm anyway and we had more fresh peas today. Yellow leaves are blowing off the trees though some haven't turned yet.

Not much has happened since I wrote you yesterday afternoon. It was nice to speak to Hanne on the phone and usually on Sundays it is clearer. She said the Washburns had been out to see you. So glad they are back, must have had a wonderful summer though I believe the weather was poor in Europe this year. She also said Nancy Newbury had been up and is soon leaving for college in California. She said it had been a lovely day and you were feeling a bit better. Those muggy days and hot are as bad if you are in bed or out.

Did the wash this morning and John Jaeggi was down trying to catch some horses, a girl with him to help but the minute they got near them, the horses would just move on. most exasperating. They got out of the pasture. Finally he built a baracade between our house and the end of the garage to drive them into. Used a

ladder, one of our rustic chairs we have outside, and some rope. Then he planned to coax the horses towards that corner and quietly catch them one at a time. However the horses had other ideas and last we saw they were headed down the road. When we came home an hour later John was just leaving having put back the chair and ladder. Expect he ~~caught them~~ caught them some other way.

Now must go over town and see a few people about various things.

Lots of love from us both.

Catharine .

Banff,
Alberta.
Tues. Sept. 17th.

Dearest Mother,

Our weather certainly changed and to-day it is trying to snow. 35 above earlier and now even lower. The snow was way down on the mountains when I went out about ten and now after lunch it is snowing tiny flakes but luckily not staying on the ground. Perhaps we will have real Indian Summer after this. Yesterday there was a cold wind and rain in the afternoon .

Haven't ~~having~~ done anything very exciting. Did wash and iron yesterday and Erling Strom came just before supper. In from Assinaboine to take some of the staff from the Banff Springs out to his camp for a week, on horseback. He asked if he could bring Jean Park down in the evening, She is the hostess at the C.P.R. Hotel and on their cruise ship in the winter , so we had a pleasant evening just talking.

If you think of it ask Hanne if she listens to Bergens Quiz show on T.V. with the young lad name Goode & He answers the questions and people challenge him and he was still winning when the program went off last spring and starts again this fall. Erling said he is the son of an old friend of his from Colorado, and in fact is his god son. He is Norwegian I believe. Funny part is Erling has only just agreed to have a radio in the house but hasn't

agreed to a TV set so they have to go to a neighbors
once a week to see the Goode boy answering questions on
the Quiz program. Alternates between two neighbors I
think.

Do hope you are getting on well and having better
weather than we are. Noticed there was rain in ^Toronto
so perhaps by now you are getting it too. Hope ^Mercelia
had a nice visit with her family, she said they have a
reunion just once a year and wasn't it nice she could go.

We are going out to see a few people about various
things so all for now. Loads of love from us both.

Catharine .

Banff,
Wed. Sept. 18, 1957

Dearest Mother,

My letters seem awfully stupid but perhaps later on will have something more interesting to report.

After the snow of yesterday, icicles on the drain pipes this morning, it has cleared into a lovely day. Brilliant color too. The mountains all covered in snow. It is after lunch and Pete is getting his camera stuff together and we are going out for a bit. He can probably work the large camera all right and if not he can direct me. He has some color film loaded he wants to use up and they say it will cloud over again to-morrow.

Had a nice letter from Cousin Bert this morning and one from Cousin Alma at the end. It was written the 11th. a week ago but got up in the mail at the Banff Springs for several days. Luckily the hotel closed and they must have been checking the mail for guests as that is the pile the letters get into and aren't noticed. Am glad they found it for it is a nice one to have. He mentioned that Madie had her 80th birthday recently. and he also mentioned how busy young Gibbs keeps Frances! It was a very good letter.

We have just been out for a while and it was lovely, took a few pictures though some of the trees are not too clear a yellow.

The Balm of Gilead by our house has turned and it is full of tiny little brown birds who flit about getting tiny bugs.

Must get this in the mail, just had a nice letter from Miss Burditt and have one I wrote this morning to post back to her, can add a bit to it.

Loads of love, from us both,

Catharine

P.S. We hear on the radio that there is a strike of ~~taxi~~

telephone people so I may not be able to phone long distance to-night to see how you are getting on. But surely it will be over by Sunday. Pete has one drop he has to have in his eye twice a week. Wed. and Sundays so I do that and telephone too. Not so apt to forget!

Banff, Alba
Thurs. Sept. 19, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Yesterday was such a lovely day but to-day is sort of dull and overcast, a heavy frost this morning. 25

It was good to speak to Hanne on the phone last night and now we are looking forward to the letter she said you were writing us. We are so glad you are feeling better for we know how sick you were. A nice letter from Mercelia this morning written Monday to say how lovely you looked to her, Bet she was relieved to find you so improved on her return. Am glad she had a pleasant time with her family and now she will be in the midst of school starting.

She also mentioned all the friends who had been to see you and we know Frances goes over often too. Even if we can't be with you during this part we will try to make up for it later.

You know we feally miss your letters and I have a whole lot of things to ask you about when you feel like answering. Like the trees back of the house and if Mr Hutchins had to cut any tops off, and how Mildred's trip is going and has she written any more letters or cards. But don't answer until you feel up to it.

I feel as if there was little to tell you about.

True we were up at the Morants for tea the other afternoon, Nick is the Canadian Pacific ~~Operator~~ Photographer and his wife "Willie" is the one who wrote you that long letter about how they live in a caboose on the railway while getting pictures of the new train. At the time she thought it might amuse you but of course had no idea you were too sick to read it. I write to her mother once in a while, she lives alone in Winnipeg and has had a Cataract operation and just getting used to new glasses. To-morrow we take Nick and "Willie" to the train east as they have a lecture of colored slides to give for the Minneapolis Automobile Club.

Lots of love Mother and do hope you feel better and better every day.

Catharine.

Banff,
Alberta.
Friday
Sept. 20, 1957

Dearest Mother,

A lovely fall day and rather a busy one for us. Sam Ward was down this morning while I was busy washing out a few things by hand, told us of his trip to Calgary. Then over town to do errands, bank etc. An early lunch and the Morants to see when we would pick them up. Think they will come for a bite before their train, I told them I would make soup and if the train was late they would have time to eat more.

Then Bill Jamieson to discuss some of his business problems, so I did the ironing while he was here. and Harold suddenly arrived, home from Eastern Canada where he has been doing summer training with the Air Force. He has soloed and flown for 10 hours I think. Now he goes back to University for another year.

Soon we must go and pick Mary Lee Mather up and take her to the train, she goes to University for her first year, has to be there a couple of days sooner than Harold. and Yesterday we went down to see Lona Becker off for MacGill in Montreal. All our young friends going off to different spots it seems. Mary Lee goes on the Canadian about 3.30 and the Morants at 6.15.

Yesterday afternoon Lona and Mary Lee came over to say goodbye and we were having coffee when Cy Harris dropped in. He is rather shy, has just lost his wife but soon joined in with us. I think he liked the young people. Then later Mrs Simpson came to tell us all about their summer, so it was a little more than we bargained for. But most of our evenings have been very quiet.

No mail this morning as the train was late and no chance to go to the post office after lunch. but have an idea there will be the one you were writing. Had one from Gale this week that she wrote for you in a way. It was good of her to write. Wonder if she and Mally are settled in their apartment yet. Also a nice one from Hanne yesterday. ~~She seems to~~ Mine to Hanne seems to always cross one from her. She is good to write but don't let her do too much that way. Wonder does she know the King Haakon (can't spell it) has been very ill, He is the King of Norway and over 80 now, 85 I think.

Must run, so all for now. Loads of love and do hope you are feeling better, we think of you often.

Pete sends his love too
Catherine

Banff, Alberta
Sat. Sept, 21, 1957

Dearest Mother, This may be a very hurried letter to-day as a lot has been going on. Pat MacKenzie has just come a little while ago and is talking to Pete, She is taking a secretarial course in Calgary this winter and hopes to be a medical secretary. First time we have seen her since we went to Edmonton. Also had Paul Francis the Indian just at lunch time, Pete gave him enough to get some dinner over town and then he was back and we took some color pictures as Pete has some film to use up.

But I did want to thank you for the fine letter that came this morning, the one written on Wednesday, a great improvement on your first two letters so we feel you must be getting better, and how nice to think you can sit up in a chair. Mercelia wrote us a tiny note to tell us that. You seem to be doing a little more each day and that is the way to get better.

I did write you some time ago that we would like to paint Maine and the Maritimes where Pete's ancestors lived. He still has an unble living in New Brunswick that he hasn't seen since 1929, and I have never been in that part. We thought maybe another year, in the late spring perhaps if we went east we could drive down ~~xxxx~~ that way and do some sketching and then go back to Concord every so often and see you. But that is next year. Dr Marshall doesn't want Pete to paint for several months as it

evidently would be using his eyes too much, He might forget if he got interested and strain them I guess.

Also as yet, until he gets his new glasses they aren't both in focus, He can read a little with his old one but not for too long.

I wonder with the extra dry summer if you will have much color? Ours has been very disappointing so far except for certain trees.

How nice that Edith Palmer got out to make you a long call, and a nice note from Barbara. ^{Bob's wife} It is nice that they are happily settled nearby. You may see quite a bit of them.

Better get this in the mail and will be writing more to-morrow.

What is the news of Mildred and how far has she gotten?

Lots of love,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun, Sept. 22, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Another lovely day and mild, fall is a nice time of year when the sun shines. Trees around our house are all yellow. Harold was over for steak dinner and Mr Scott from the old house has come down and we have been sitting outside in the sun letting our lunch settle. Harold leaves this afternoon for University. All our young friends except Linnie Becker seem to be off for college.

Not much of interest to tell you about. One funny thing happened the other day when we went up to pick up the Morants, we were waiting out on the street and could hear an Elk Bugling, that is the noise they make in the fall, a funny sound, and then we noticed a few females off in the bush and before we knew it a whole herd of them had come into the yard of the house across the street from where we were. They began eating the flowers and shrubs under the windows and making a general meal of all that they could find. Nick went after them and chased them off as best he could and they went down towards the main road through the trees, soon there were shrieks of small kids, and I guess they had come out of the woods and scared them. Rather a nuisance!

My desk is completely disorganized and yet it is too nice an afternoon to stay in, I must start cutting down the larkspur and fixing things like that up for winter. At night with Pete sitting in the other room I hate to leave him too long, so read parts of the paper ~~aloud~~ aloud and of course it is a good excuse for me not to write letters.

We look forward to mail from Concord to hear how you are getting on. We think you are doing wonders to be getting up in a chair for after being in bed a couple of weeks one gets awfully weak, no matter what their age.

Will try to write a better letter soon. Ate so much I am sleepy, and should be writing Rusty too.

Loads of love from us both.

Catherine

Later. Just received your nice letter written Thursday & am reading it at the Post Office. Merelia did send me the nice one from Barbara Palmer to you. Will send it in my letter to-morrow.

Am enclosing Barbara Palmers letter you asked for.

Banff, Alta.
Mon. Sept. 23, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Another lovely fall day, such a warm sun and the yellow leaves give a golden light about the house. Pete thinks it is the loveliest time of year and I agree.

A busy morning too. Bob Watt came to fix a water arrangement we have in the dark room. It has never worked properly before, Is supposed to keep the water coming out of the central ~~tap~~^{spot} at any given temperature you want, but you needed too many hands to ~~keep~~ the hot and cold tap on and regulate this too. Now he has a central tap as well and for the first time it works fine. One more thing done, he has also taken the cellar pump back to fix it for winter and is to bring that back later this afternoon.

I did a wash and was in the midst of a letter to the Campbells when Pete began thinking of our Christmas cards. You would laugh for naturally as he can't really read, (just glance through magazines for a little while) He sits in his big chair and either listens to a radio program or thinks, as not many of the programs in the mornings are very good. So I get nicely going on a letter and he gets a bright idea, and usually there are so many bright ideas of things to do or look for or see about that my correspondence suffers. Right now he is sitting in the sun at the back and I am outside typewriting. It is too nice to stay in to-day.

We also had a long call before lunch from Arlene Voorhies. She is the friend who called on you once with a Mrs Henderson who got along so well with Jean as they are both Scotch. She has been with the Voorhies family for years, was married and raised a family and then when her children married came back to look after Arlene. Mrs Henderson is 80 and didn't come on this trip, but Arlene had another friend from New York to drive with her. They are hitting all the good weather and really enjoying it. Just missed the 14 inches of snow in Helena Montana last week. Arlene is about the size of Betty Dumaine but don't think you would remember her. She asked for you and sent her best wishes.

Speaking of snow, some friends went to Montana to pick up a trailer left there and ran into the snow storm and said some drifts were 12 feet deep and they had quite a time got stuck and the snow turned to slush and was really quite a mess for this time of year. We are lucky it missed us.

Now I must go to the Post Office and get the Groceries. That was an even better letter ~~you~~ from you yesterday. Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alta.
Sept. 24, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Another nice day but not as clear as yesterday, sort of milky sky, it is warm though and nice to be outside. We just took a drive down to the east gate & Canmore to see the color, one storm and it will all be gone and a cold front is due soon from the north.

Expected to do a lot to-day but first Sam Ward came in early this morning, with some bills he had looked over for us, then Eldon Walls who looks after the store for Pete, about the new building to be put up this winter, back of George Nobles. And he was here for an hour or more. Then over town for a few errands and the mail.

Right after lunch Erling Strom and Jean Park just back from Assinaboine, they had been down yesterday when we were out, left a note on the door about 3.30 saying they would be over for steak dinner last night, came back at 5 and took their note away figuring we wouldn't be back in time. So now they are to come to-night at 7 and we have the steaks, sweet potatoes to bake, frozen green beans and cut up peaches with ice cream, We figure they will have good appetites after riding in from Assinaboine and playing golf this afternoon.

Did you have wonderful Northern Lights a few nights ago. Sunday I think it was, We saw them after going to bed. The kind that all go up to the center of the sky, In Calgary they were so red people were telephoning to find if there was a big fire.

My letters seem so stupid. This morning we had about 6 deer come by the house. the tiniest fawn was so cute and so tame, let Pete rub it's ears, such big eyes. Usually when the animals come around it means a storm & flies which we have to-day mean rain. Unless we get some bad weather I shall never catch up on the mail.

We are always hoping you are feeling better and can do a little more, or maybe see a few more friends.

We both send lots of love as always.

Catherine

P.S. Hanne will be feeling a bit sad about King Haakon and now they have a new King in Norway. King Olav. Erling Strom usee to know him as a boy and skied with him too.

Banff, Alberta.

Wed. Sept, 25, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Your nice letter that came this morning, written Saturday, (or started then,) is the best one you have written us yet. and longer too and we notice you even addressed the envelope. Probably seems slow work to you but makes us happy to see how your writing has improved. Wish I could say as much for my typing.

We think you are doing awfully well to try and step, for at your age after being in bed for so long you are apt to stiffen up, Just keep at it and if each day you can take maybe one more step you will soon get quite a distance. Something to work at. If you can improve as much taking a step, as you have in writing a letter, you are doing fine. Bet Dr Piper is pleased.

We had a nice evening last night with Erling Strom and Jean Park for dinner. You would have thought they had never had such a good meal, and Jean eats at the Banff Springs all summer, but the food there she says is kept too long before you get it, and I told her it has to come too great a distance from the kitchen to the table. She really enjoyed her steak and as we had to cook an extra one for them, I guess Erling did too. It was rather a late evening for us but not a tiring one.

Another lovely day. This morning clear

clouds

but tiny high white ~~clouds~~ this afternoon making it a flat light. However it is mild and soon I am going out to clean up the garden plots, it is too nice to stay in.

Briling said they saw wonderful red northern lights Monday night but like you we were in bed and never noticed. As I told them, the advantages of having outside plumbing, you don't miss things like that late at night. They were at the Halfway cabin on their way in from Assinaboine and someone going to the privy late at night noticed the sky.

Loads of love Mother from us both,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta
Thurs. Sept. 26th

Dearest Mother,

Another fine letter from you to-day and not even a word mis-spelled and that is more than one can say of mine! We do like getting them. Hope the pill the doctor gave you is helping your leg, though it might take a bit of time. Just keep trying to step, the effort is the hard part.

We have been wondering about Rusty and where he had gotten to, sometimes they don't give them a chance to write for several weeks. Do send us the letter to read.

Also we are anxious to know where Mildred has been and all about her trip and how the friend is getting on? I find I didn't send you Mildred's first letters ~~for~~ think I mean't to post them from Banff rather than Edmonton. Found them safe and sound when I tidied my desk this morning. It was in a real mess and state of confusion this time. Will send them with this and you will enjoy reading them over. Perhaps Hanne or Mercelia would send us the cards to look at, several of the places we may have been to.

A nice letter from Cousin Alma this A.M. telling us about her call on you Sunday, also that Gil and Mr Olds were playing a tennis match with young Sted Buttrick and Johnnie Boardman. They would have to work hard to beat a young couple like that. Did you hear all about it?

A nice letter from Hanne too, It is good of her to write when she must be pretty busy keeping an eye on you. Did Jessie stay longer? I thought she had left and then when Hanne mentioned the name Jessie again I thought she must have stayed on a while longer, which would help things out.

I wondered how Miss Barrett was getting on and if still at the nursing home? Had a nice little letter from her. Will she go on living there I wonder? and can she walk yet?

How is Miss Morrison getting on? I hope she had a chance to go up to Cranberry Island she loves so much for believe she hasn't been able to go for a long time.

and the Miss Stinsons? How do they like Monument St. and what is she working on now? You see I can think of a lot of things to ask you to answer.

We really are having the most wonderful stretch of Indian summer weather, it is so hot in the sun and a soft hazy blueish light to-day, the trees still lovely as the wind hasn't blown the leaves off yet. This is the kind

of weather we hope for every year for painting, and now we have it we can't paint, Dr Marshall ~~says~~ doesn't want Pete to do any painting until he gets his new glasses, I guess he thinks that one looks too hard and concentrates too much trying to paint. But we hope other years we will have a fall like this. It is nice just to enjoy and we have taken a number of photographs to develop later.

Will send this along with the letters from Mildred, think I kept them longer knowing how sick you were at the time. She does write so well.

Loads of love from us both.

Catherine

Banff, Alta.
Sat. Sept. 28, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Somehow I missed writing you yesterday. Should have started a letter in the morning but after tidying up a bit we waited, expecting the Architect of the new store building to come with Eldon to decide on the tender to accept.

We waited and waited and finally Eldon came ^{MA} have waited as long as we had and no word from Mr Bowers. It was nearly noon by then so Eldon thought he might be over eight after lunch. He talked quite a while about various business things and then we made lunch of what we had in the house, then rushed over for mail etc. and were back by 2 PM. It must have been 2.30 before Eldon and Mr Bowers came, were here an hour I guess talking about plans and the contractors etc. and by the time they left Pete said "lets go out for a bit of a drive" and I never did do any writing to you!!

Think I told you some time ago we are going to build on the back of the corner lot on the main street. Don't expect you would remember it too well, but at present there is an old wooden building on the corner which used to be a meat store. George Nobles' Camera store is there at present and they pay a very good rent as it is such a good corner.

In back there is soon for 3 stores to face on Buffalo Street which leads down to the river. The new post office being there, everyone has to walk along Buffalo so we feel it is a good location for stores, one to be used by Eldon who needs a larger office. Then upstairs there will be three nice suites. Later after this back portion is built we will tear down the front part and put up a new store on the front, all part of the same plan. It is quite an undertaking but by having the architect he will really check on the contractors, and Eldon will look after the business part. So once we decide on the plan it isn't too difficult. If the weather is good they hope to get the foundation in this fall and maybe some of the walls but otherwise will close it in and finish in the spring. Takes a lot of talking over. It will be rather modern in design and as it has a flat roof there isn't much one can do except conform to other buildings, none of them too attractive in a way.

We are still having nice weather. 82 in Calgary yesterday and quite warm here too, but a wind which took off lots of leaves. We drove up the west road and the trees were just a splash of color against a gray sky, #looked like rain but didn't in the end.

Have cleaned a bit and the laundry is nearly done in the machine so will hang that out and then go over and do the weekend shopping.

Next week the Campbells may come up for a couple of nights if they can get away. bringing a friend with them. but not the boys who will stay with their Grandpa and look after the ranch.

Heaps of love Mother and do send us Rusty's letter to read and we promise to send it right back.

More love,

Catharine

Baugh.
Sunday -
Sept 29 1957

Dearest Mother,

Another nice letter from you yesterday - written just before Madie came to see you, & sending us Mildred's nice letter from Venice.

What a wonderful time they are having. Do send us the cards to read. This is the first news we have had since she wrote on the boat group over. & now they will be home before we realize their trip is over. Mildred does tell one a lot in a letter.

We stayed at the Royal Danelli Hotel in Venice. There are pictures of it in the album. Don't imagine it has changed too much since we were there. Remember Edith & I had pictures taken with pigeons & St Marks? 1924.

Dennis Nicholl (the mounted Police friend from Edmonton) was in Venice this summer. He flew to Ireland & England to see his father & then to Venice for a few

days. Had a wonderful time. Evidently enjoys trying to speak various languages & imitate the pronunciation & got along famously with the Italians. Stayed in a little pension where they didn't speak English, but with his little book he got along well.

There was a diplomatic courier he met & they went out for dinner & an evening together. Think he was also Canadian, on his way to Cairo. ~~He~~ he has lived in Italy & couldn't get over how well Dennis got on speaking his few words of Italian. Said he had been sending shirts to the laundry & could get none of them back & was down to his last shirt. Couldn't make them understand. Would Dennis try? So Dennis spoke with the help of his little book (English into Italian) & I expect his smile & genial friendly manner, & all the shirts were back in no time, much to Dennis' amusement.

Gray & Elana Campbell may come up this weekend. So I will tell her you got her letter & were pleased. You don't need to answer it unless you want to later on.

We are sorry you were having so much pain & just hope it has gone by now. Would make life pretty miserable.

The little kittens must be fun to watch - if only they wouldn't grow into big ungainly cats.

Better go over for the mail now. Our post office opens the lobby for 2 hours every Sunday afternoon so people with boxes can get their mail. Rather convenient.

Lots of love from us both & we are always hoping you are feeling better. This morning we drove up the new part of the road to Lake Louise. Half of it is finished & paved but not opened as yet. Will be wonderful when you can use it all the way & then I expect the traffic will be that much heavier.

Max Love

Catharine.

P.S. Just got a wonderful letter from Rusty with his address, all about trip across Atlantic have only glanced at it so far. Max Love c.

Banff, Alta.
Mon. Sept. 30, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Another perfect day. clear as a bell and our trees have just enough leaves left on to make it all golden light around the house, the ground all yellow too with fallen leaves. I cut the larkspurs down yesterday and must think of other jobs to do outside as an excuse to sit out. Of course I could write letters ! but it is almost like spring fever the warm autumn sun.

Was so glad to hear from Hanne that you have a " walker " don't know exactly what they are like but expect they help support ones weight so you can walk a few more steps each day. Good fo_r you. Even if it is discouraging you keep at it and I am sure you will get a lot of the strength~~th~~ back into your legs. There is nothing like having to be in bed to sap ones energy and strength. Even a young person feels weak after a week in bed. Didn't Miss Barrett have one last summer to help her walk after she broke her hip ? Maybe she could give you some pointers.

Pearl Moore and Mrs Painter were down last evening and both asking for you, in fact lots of people ask, even those who don't really know you. Your spunk at nearly 93 catches their imagination.

This isn't much of a letter, but we are expecting Eldon to come with the Architects of the new building and last time they were here I never got a letter written at all, so thought I should have something to mail to-day !

May have more to tell you to-morrow.

Loads of love from us both,

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Sept.
October 1, 1957

Dearest Mother,

We are just waiting for Syd Vallance to come around on business, so thought it a good chance to write a few lines to you.

The weather is still nice and quite mild but the barometer is dropping so perhaps we are to have a change of weather before long. It has been lovely for about 2 weeks now and really more than one should expect.

We have been busy thinking and talking about the new building over on the corner. Are to call it the Buffalo Block as it is on Buffalo Street. Will be three stores and 3 suites above. Mr Bowers the Architect has been up with the plans as Mr Dale the head of the firm was in England for 6 weeks. But they both came up to-day with the contract to sign and we sort of hope the builder will start soon. It is all sort of new to us doing things this way but the only way to build a place such as this. Luckily we have Eldon Walls to do all the business part for us, he looks after the buildings for Pete anyway, and nice to talk to and discuss things with. So except for making final decisions, and paying the bills we leave most of it up to him.

Yesterday Bill Jamieson was over for a good part of the afternoon and Sam Ward came down and took the big studio window in the living room off, (the storm windows that is) so I could wash it, then he came back later and put it back on. I always save the window washing for nice days as it is a good excuse to be outside and yet one gets quite a bit done.

This morning Eldon was down early to talk over things, then we went over town for errands, then Bill Jamieson came back to tell us his plans. He has worked in the Photography store for about 20 years and had a heart attack this summer and still isn't too strong & isn't going back to work for about 3 weeks. He comes and talks things over, is an old friend.

Sam too was down after lunch and then Eldon with the 2 architects and the papers to sign and now we are waiting for Syd.

Not a very interesting letter I must say; but Pete has been talking off and on and hard to concentrate.

Sent you some clippings yesterday about the women in Winnipeg who felt so strongly about a tree that the city engineers were going to cut down, they all got together to prevent it. They have had quite a time, a lot on the radio about it. The mayor finally went to try and stop them and risked his office on the question. But they saved

the tree. We feel that too 66ten now-a-days in the name of progress they pull down old landmarks and cut down lovely old trees that have taken years to grow. Never think of the character or looks of the place. So more power to the ladies of Winnipeg.

All for now, and do hope you are getting on well and feeling stronger each day.

Lots of love from us both.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 2, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Have just drafted a long business letter so now for a bit of a change before typing that, will write to you a bit.

Saw Young Jimmy Simpson yesterday and he said he would tell us a story we would never believe, but it was true. His father is still up at Bow Lake, alone with the dog. The rest have all come back to Banff.

Jimmy went up to the lake the other day, was met by his father with quite a lot of blood on his hands, went into the lodge and there in the small sitting room was a dead mountain goat. He couldn't figure how it ever got there.

Seems the goat had been crossing from one mountain range to the other and ran into the dog, which chased it I guess, for in its excitement it jumped through a window into the lodge, got so scared it went tearing around, upsetting furniture, knocking over pictures that stood around ready to come to Banff, and made a mess of things. ~~xxxxx~~ Its tracks were everywhere. I am not quite sure of all the details and I guess the dog was in on the excitement inside the building. Any way Jim killed it finally and I believe it is now in the deep freeze! It will be hard to make people believe such a story but after all a goat is a heavy animal and too large for Big Jim to shoot and bring down a mountain. He is 80.

Our good weather is over for a while, only a few leaves left and it has been raining since early morning and promises snow before long. Perhaps if we get a cold wet spell now we will have some more fine weather in October. It has been so mild we are spoilt. Actually it is good for things to have a rain before the ground freezes up, it was getting pretty dry.

Hope things are going well with you and that you are feeling better and stronger. Don't get discouraged, for we all have some days that are better than others and you seem to be improving though it probably seems slower than to the rest of the friends and relations.

How is young Gibs? Bet he is into everything and expect he is running about by now.

Lots of love Mother, and from Pete too

Catherine

Banff, Alta.
Fri. Oct. 4, 1957

Dearest Mother,

You may have had a killing frost but we have a 5 inch snow storm. It never got about 25[°] yesterday and this morning was 20[°]. A fine snow all Thursday but didn't pile up, just 3 or 4 inches but to-day snowed quite hard this early morning and must be over 6 inches by noon.

Now the sun is coming out and it is clearing off, the few yellow leaves still on the trees are falling and it is awfully pretty as they land on the fresh snow in all directions, sticking up at all angles, some are standing upright, just the stem stuck in the snow.

A short letter came from you yesterday written on Monday and then one from Hanne the same day. You were trying the new walker and Hanne seemed to think you did better, Sted came too to see you, and Aunt Julie had been there, in fact sounded like quite a busy day.

This was a nice letter of Mildred's and she will be home, at least landing in New York, about the time you get this. What a wonderful trip they must have had, hope it didn't hurt the freinds eyes, for she must have looked pretty hard at times!

How about sending ^{just} a few cards of Mildreds for we haven't heard a thing about her trip except the first letters crossing the Atlantic and this last one from

Marseilles, and we are rather anxious to hear if she went to Damascus and Cairo, Egypt.

In this weeks "Life" there are some pictures of the Marines with the 6 th Fleet landing in Gallipoli, a place where Mrs Simpsons brother was in the first great war. Seems strange if Rusty is there now.

We heard that Gale and Mally had an apartment on Pinckney St for the winter, how nice they can be together and I believe Gale starts her job Monday. Am sure she will find it interesting. They must have had fun fixing up the apartment to-gether.

Haven't done much lately, wrote some letters yesterday and Pete wrote to you, now I have all our teenage friends to write, from Vancouver to Montreal.

Lots of Love Mother and don't be discouraged, you are still smarter than a lot of people still in their eighties, and mind you, a lot of them aren't even bright enough for friends to go and see.

Heaps of love from us both.

Catherine .

Box 370
Banff, Alta.
Sat. Oct. 5, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Your letter written October 1st has just come and we think you are awfully smart to have walked across the room just 4 weeks to the day after you were taken so ill. Expect it seems longer than that to you but actually it isn't so very long and we think you are doing wonderfully well. Bet Mrs Pepper can't do as well ! Do you suppose she can walk at all? am sure you are ten times brighter in your mind. After all she can't be too bright to have wanted to stay in bed that long!

But to tell the truth we were awfully surprised to hear you could walk as many steps and so soon. Last we heard it was just one step or two you could take and this is quite a jaunt in comparison. Don't get discouraged, at this rate you will be getting smarter each day.

It is just a month to-morrow that we returned from Edmonton and Pete said this morning that by the way his eye feels he doesn't see why we couldn't go to Concord in a couple of weeks. That would be just 6 weeks after he got out of hospital. We think it would make the trip easier, and surer at this time of year if we take the train. We can get right on here in the

*L papers
Shivers,*

afternoon, reach Toronto the evening of the 3rd day (2 full days on the train) and take a night train to Boston. So will let you know pretty soon what day we can come, and trust it will be alright for you ! I will telephone you to-morrow anyway so you should know by the time you get this letter.

It is very wintry here, 14 above this morning and hasn't gotten above 24 all day. Still snow on the roofs, only a little melted in the sun but promises to warm up by Monday ? Sure hope so. We forgot to turn off ~~one~~ or drain one outside tap and the pipe is frozen yet.

Maybe you better keep Mildred's post cards for us to read in Concord, unless you have already sent them. Will return the nice letter from Rusty to-morrow.

It will be awfully good to see you and after all if you start walking about, you will need the 2 of us to each take an arm.

Had a nice letter from Hanne and now one to-day from Frances. It is so good of them to write.

Loads of love and it is nice to be able to say " see you soon "

Love,

Catharine
Thanks to. for Edith's letter & the
clipping about Col.

Banff, Alta.
Sunday
Oct. 6, 1967

Dearest Mother,

To look outside, except for the yellow leaves on top of the snow, one would think it was the middle of winter, almost feels like it too as it hasn't gotten above 26 for the last 3 days. However they think it may warm up the middle of the week. Sure hope so!

Your letter to-day saying how very dry it is with you, expect you are getting the nice weather we had a couple of weeks ago.

Just telephoned Concord and it was nice to have Gale answer. Neither of us recognized the others voice! We wanted to tell you that we will soon be heading east for Concord. Gale said you were a bit concerned about some questions and what to do, things Russell would have known about. Perhaps I can help and with Sted's advise and Miss Burditt having records of such things we can figure it all out together.

The biggest news was to think you had walked in ~~the~~ to your sitting room, just shows it is a matter of keeping at it and practise, some days you will feel like walking more than others but just the same it is a big step ahead. and we think you do wonderfully well.

When I read your letter written Thursday,
to Pete, where you said " the Walker doesn't work "
but with a cane and an arm you got way across the room.
Pete said , " well if the Walker doesn't work, I am glad
your mother does. "

We thought you might be interested in the
woman of Winnipeg saving the tree. There are so few
old trees on the prairie it seems a shame to lose a
really old one. Now they are thinking of widening the
street. We heard a broadcast of it on the radio and it
was really funny, the man up the ladder sawing off a
limb and the women trying to keep them from cutting the
tree down. finally the Mayor arrived, but he had no real
right to stop the engineers as some committee had voted
the tree should come down. However he ordered the men to
stop and staked his re-election on it. For unless the
Aldermen backed him up, he would have to resign. The
ladies then invited all the men in for a cup of tea.

This is such an interesting letter of Rusty's
and did you see a recent copy of Life with the Marines
landing at Gallipoli. Strange part is that Mrs Simpson's
brother led a few scotchman to take some trench there in
the first Great War and was mentioned in despatches.

Better get this in the mail before it is too
late to -day. See you soon for a real visit.

Loads of love,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Mon. Oct. 7, 1957

Dearest Mother,

We are still having winter weather and it never got above freezing, except in the sun, all day to -day. In fact has been in the twenties since Thursday. A cold wind from the north. Quite pretty this afternoon as it is sunny and low clouds streaking across the middle of the mountains. We have just been for a ride up the new road and it will be very pretty this winter we think when snow covers the bare gravel and softens the new cuts and banks. It goes up the other side of the valley towards Lake Louise and gives one entirely different views of the mountains. It is a 4 lane road, as wide as the road into Boston. They call it 2 lane with paved shoulders but has the appearance of a wide highway.

In one place along the lakes there were mountain sheep lying in the road, and others licking the salt off the rock cliff at one side. I got out to take a picture of the ones on the rocks and the others all crowded around me wanting to be fed. Don't know what will happen when the traffic gets too thick.

We had a quiet day yesterday, only Mrs Simpson coming in in the morning, and then to-day while I was cleaning up the back hall a bit and the cupboards there, Willie Morant came in. Nick having gone to Revelstoke

to meet a railway man from Peru, a friend of theirs they met in South America last year. They will come through on the train to-morrow. So Willie stayed to lunch as we had lots of steak left over. She brought us a lovely cake she had made and we also had some cherries, friends from California brought us last year. well really this summer. preserved ones and very good.

We are hoping it will get warmed soon, seems awfully wintry all at once. a week ago we were sitting outside feeling nice and warm.

Hope you are feeling better and getting on well.

Loads of love, from us both
Catharine

Banff
Alberta.
Tues. Oct. 8, 1957

Dearest Mother,

I never got a letter off to you to-day.

Don't know exactly what happened but think it must have been because the weather was so nice. It was still quite chilly but above freezing for the first time since last thursday.

We were quite busy too, I washed and then we had to go out for an errand and back to hang out the laundry and it promptly froze, so you can see it was quite cold. We also went over the plans for the new buidling very carefully for if there are any changes they have to be made now. Just little things we might notice. Then over town again for mail.

X
After lunch it was so lovely and clear and the snow on the mountains made it so beautiful we took the cameras and went out the west road. Pete had a few more sheets of film he wanted to expose so as to develop them with some developer already mixed. We did some the other night, a thing he can do and not use his eyes. They came out well, some colour pictures of Paul Frances the Indian who came to see us the week after we came back. and we took some pictures with old film at the back door. Pete was very pleased.

We first went on the old road west along the lakes and I tried to get some ducks but of course the minute I got within range they flew up in all directions, then we tried some sheep, they are so tame, about 30 of them. and lots of little muskrats too. sitting on the ice, there are still patches of open water.

When we returned we stopped at the station to see if the evening train was on time and found a little lady looking for a taxi, so gave her a lift, Pete isn't supposed to lift bags and such like, so I carried the bags for her, to the car and into the bus depot, they were very light, and I guess, ^{what?} She wanted to give me a tip: 35 or 40¢. The way we were dressed I guess she thought we needed it!

Then to see Eldon, when all the school children came along, several we haven't seen for ages stopped and spoke. Even got a wedding present, and Pete heard about the new Gondola lift up Sulphur. Then home and Mr Lonsdale came for a few minutes, He has just retired as United Church Minister after 32 years, He came a month before the church was built. Then up to get Willie Morant and down to the train to meet her husband Nick and a man from Peru going to England, and we to see Jean Park. An unusually lovely evening with the light all pink on the snow covered mountains.

Just here Pete asked if I didn't want to go out and close the gate, which we do each night so cars don't come in. and right at the back door was a great big black bear. He ambled off, having already upset all the garbage pails.

Later another lovely day - Wednesday -
They have just started digging over
at the new building -

See you soon. We will
leave the end of next week by
train & should arrive about 22nd

Heaps of love

Catherine

Banff,
Alberta.
Thursday
Oct. 10, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Lovely weather again but hasn't been warm enough to melt all the snow, though a lot of it went. We still have the outside windows to wash and get ready for winter and the leaves to take out of the gutters etc.

There are lots of Elk around in the fall as it is the mating season and the big bulls all have their group of females. They were wandering around the house in the night, a beautiful moon so you could see them quite plainly. one big bull came crashing through the little spruce beside the house and then walked so close to the ~~living room~~ ^{house} his antlers almost touched the eaves. There was a young buck with just ~~single~~ ^{single} antlers, and as he heard the big bull bugle (the funny ho~~o~~o noise they make like someone trying to blow a real bugle) the young male started sparing with a low hanging branch on the big spruce tree, probably pretending it was another buck, He worked away with his head this way and that and of course the branch by now is all bare of needles.

At breakfast there were about 15 females out on the lawn and under the trees, some eating, others resting and lying on the grass. Quite a few calves. A black cat came along and the elk were so curious, couldn't figure out what kind of animal or thing it was. Watched it stroll by with their ears perked up.

After breakfast we happened to look out as the big bull came along, he may have been here all the time. and he started sort of herding the females together and they quietly started towards the river and soon we realized they were going to swim across, as the first ones entered the water the big bull quietly walked over the low fence we have and brought up the rear, being sure all his harem had started to swim across. It was really a lovely sight for it is a beautiful clear morning and very still and frosty, so as they swam the river in twos and threes the water rippled in the sunlight. No time to get a camera as it all took just a few minutes. Finally the bull swam over bringing up the rear and we sort of helped one little calf out on the opposite bank, Pete thought the calf was a little lame. Then the big bull shook himself with a great shower of water and they all disappeared into the low willows on the river bank. But it really was a lovely sight.

To-morrow I am going to Calgary for one or two things and the dentist, though I am not sure if he is there or can see me. Will take the bus as otherwise we no sooner get down than Pete thinks it about time to start home, and he might look too hard anyway on a long drive like that.

Haven't our reservations as yet but will get them soon and then let you know where we will land and when. Think we will take the train this trip as coming back if we run into bad weather it is awkward and we are delayed etc.

Hope you are feeling fine this
week & we can have a nice quiet
visit together - It will be nice
for us to be with you just now
& we hope it's company for you too.
I'll try to write letters for you too.
I'll probably leave the end of
next week - but by the time you
get this it may be "this week"
for you -

Heaps of love
Catharine

On Bus -
Banff to Calgary
Fri. Oct 11, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Just got your nice letter written after you had received ours saying we were coming soon. Don't try to write for we will be leaving a week from Sunday - the 20th I think. The train was booked solid the end of next week. must be a boat in from Australia or something. We should get to Boston Wednesday noon from Toronto. best connection by train.

Pete is all set. Bought a new coat yesterday! When he went to hang it up he said "Where's my hat?" We couldn't find it anywhere. he hasn't worn it since we came from Edmonton. Was sure it was hanging in hall a day or two ago. Maybe some one had taken it by mistake. I hunted high & low as Jean used to do. up stairs & down. It was in the Fitcher on the dresser! He had put it there when he tried on his coat. Did I tease him!

It's a lovely day. am going to Calgary Dentist & other errands! -
Loads of love

Catherine

Mercelia's letter about Hawaii just came.

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Oct. 12, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Just never got a letter written to you to-day. Perhaps because ^{yesterday} it was a long day in Calgary but pleasant enough. Had a friend to sit with going down and coming back another one I knew even better. You can't read on a bus very well so it is nicer when you have a person to talk to. ^{takes 2 1/2 hours -}

Was in luck and went to the dentist early, so he worked for nearly an hour, usually each appointment is about half an hour so now I don't have to go back there, and then did a number of errands but after so long at the dentists didn't find a hat that fit or looked like anything, maybe I can get one at Stearns ! Was going to get some shoes and picked up some that were rather attractive and inside they said " Sandler of Boston." so didn't try them on, figuring might as well wait for those too. It was a lovely day and beautiful sunset coming home, about 9 when we got in as we were late leaving Calgary and stopped for 5 or 10 minutes while the strong men on the bus and the driver helped pull a ^{car} out of the ditch.

To-day has been lovely and mild, 55 this afternoon. I did the usual cleaning upstairs, once a week run around. Then over to do errands and back later after the mail to see Eldon and then after lunch there was the broadcast of the arrival of the Queen and Prince Phillip in Ottawa and it went along for 2 hours. Their drive from the Airport to Rideau Hall where they stay. The microphones they now use just pick up the voice of the person speaking and not any sounds around, so it wasn't as interesting to listen to in a way as it used to be. Before you heard the bells on the churches and cheering etc.

Then we took a bit of a drive and put away the hoses and the rakes and lawn mower etc. It is now after 5 o'clock.

To-day the cards from Mildred came, Pete recognized the station he took the train from in Genoa. I was surprised to find they actually got to Damascus, wonder if they felt the feelings of the people at all. and didn't any letters come between Genoa and Jerusalem or from Athens? I wonder. Sometimes you mail them in stragge places and they don't come ^{through.} ~~through.~~ Soon we should be hearing all about the trip 2st. hand. They certainly saw a lot of ports in a short time.

We will be busy this week I expect, always a lot of last minute things to see to.

Must get this over in the mail

Heaps of love and hope you are feeling better all the time.

Catherine
will send the cards back soon & long letter about Hawaii.

Banff, Alberta.

Sun. Oct. 13, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Next week at this time we will be trying to remember all the last minute things to do as we will leave on the train in the mid-afternoon. Have 2 nights and 2 days on the train, ~~and~~ ^{we} get to Toronto Tuesday evening, with an hour and a half to catch the night train to Boston. Arrive at Huntington Ave. Station at 11.50 I think. Will have to find out for sure to-morrow if we got the reservation. They can't find out if the train stops at 128, doesn't say so on their time table so think we are just as well to go right in to Boston. So George can meet us there. Will let you know definitely later on. That will be Wednesday Noon, October 23rd,

Pete Tasker is here this morning mixing chemicals for developing colour film ~~to-night~~ ^{this afternoon}. He is the game warden from the Bow Summit now living in Banff and so interested in learning all he can about photography. Pete is showing him how to mix all the chemicals, there are 6 or 7 to do, and then tonight he will come after supper and we will show him how to do the film. They are so busy it gives me a chance to write without too many interruptions, only when they need something do I get called.

We are now in midst of developing film after lunch. Peter Tasker having returned & I just came down from telephoning you. It was really wonderful to hear your voice & you came to the phone much faster than I expected. Won't be long before we see you. Sometime Wednesday afternoon Oct 23rd. I will let George know exact details later. There is quite a bet to

see to before we leave so we will be real
busy this coming week.

See you soon

Lots of love

Catherine

Still expect to reach Boston by noon Wednesday Oct 23rd -

Banff,
Tuesday, Oct. 15, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Had mean't to pick up reservations to-day but will to-morrow for sure, We have the space reserved but the tickets aren't made out yet, which takes time, then will write exactly what time we reach Boston. Hanne's nice letter written Friday reached us to-day, we have just been having a long Canadian Thanksgiving weekend but luckily none of the nephews home so no big meals, plenty of company as it was/

A lovely day to-day, up early to hear the Queen in Hull, Quebec, Sam Ward came as we were finishing breakfast about 8.30, then we also listened to the Duke of Edinburgh give a very good talk on radio, ^{at 10 AM.} Mrs Simpson over, ^{when I can't remember!} Out to see Eldon Walls on business and over later to have a coat sleeve shortened, have to pick it up soon as the man goes on his vacation. Then this afternoon tried to write a business letter to Jim Orr and Bill Jamieson came in to talk about his troubles, Over to the bank and a while there, saw Eldon on the street and more talk, then to buy some Baby thing to send to Mrs Painter's grandchild. Back here to do it up and Pearl Moore called, got business letter finished while she spoke to Pete and then to Mrs Painters with Baby thing as she leaves to-morrow, stopped to talk to Mr Paris, getting very lame and slow walking, just 86, then to Margaret Reid who is in a wheel chair and being pushed, such a nice day everyone was ^{the ones} out, we haven't seen much this summer. Saw Pete Tasker who comes this evening to do some color films, then back to get pliofilm on the upstairs windows as it is a warm enough day. Interrupted twice, once a Mrs Hansen, a neighbor who has some Indian boxes of clothes and the express man, Pete loading film in the dark room and I did get some windows done, now over town for the coat, and to mail this and an early supper and then the films to do. Keeps us on the hop.

See you a week to-morrow our time but much sooner for you, by

the time you get this . Loads of love Catherine

Bayff,
Wednesday
Oct 16, 1957

Dearest Mother,

a bit late getting

Thursday. That is all I got written yesterday! We had a busy day as you may imagine. All sorts of last^mminute things to see to, but luckily so far the weather has been good.

We were too busy Tuesday to get to the station to pick up our tickets and when we went yesterday the agent had gone to Calgary to shop for the day, so finally got them this morning and I enclose the paper for Geogge. We thought the Huntington Ave. Station the best bet and the train we could get space on is earlier than the other one, a closer connection in ~~Toronto~~ but if we miss it will telephone Hanne.

It gets to Huntington Ave. at 9.55 your time so looks as if we would get to Concord nicely before lunch. with not too big an appetitiz/though! We just mustn't eat too much this trip.

A nice letter from you this morning, so glad you are getting on, even if it is slow. We will be there soon and can have a real nice visit with you. We are both looking forward to it so much, a nice time of year and before the snow comes, we hope!

Had a nice letter from Aunt Jmie too, the first for some time but also the longest, She sounded well and mentioned that the leaves were falling fast, I expect because of the drouth.

Have been listening to the Queen's arrival in Washington this morning, being greeted by the President. Wonder if you had it on T.V. Wonder too if by any chance you heard the talk the Queen gave to the people of Canada on TV. It was the first time she had been on Television anywhere like that, and we read in the paper that a man named Michael Hind-Smith did the telecast. He came here about 8 years ago to get Pete to give a program on Indians but Pete didn't think he knew enough, but we had a very pleasant afternoon with him. Quite an honor to do the telecast so I guess he has been promoted since we knew him.

So many little odd errands that take time so we must go out now and do some more, then will try to get the last outside windows done this afternoon as it will be too cold when we return. Got the leaves out of the gutters yesterday.

Loads of love and please thank Hanne for her last nice letter and Mercelia for the Hawaiian one we will bring with us. hope to read it aloud to Pete on the train

Loads of love,

Catharine

Bangff.
Friday.
Oct 18, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Two nice letters from you to-day. This probably will be the last I will write before leaving. So many things to see to & interruptions as well. Have been very busy. We leave Sunday afternoon, day after tomorrow for us, & will see you Wednesday. I wired yesterday so you would know as soon as we knew definitely the time of arrival, 9:55 A.M. at Southport Ave Station in Boston Wed. Oct 23rd. It will be sort of fun taking a long train trip. Give us time to collect our thoughts.

Won't be long now before we see you. Loads of love

Pete & Catharine



ROYAL YORK HOTEL
TORONTO

Canadian Pacific Hotels

Tuesday,
Nov 26, 1957

Dearest Mother,

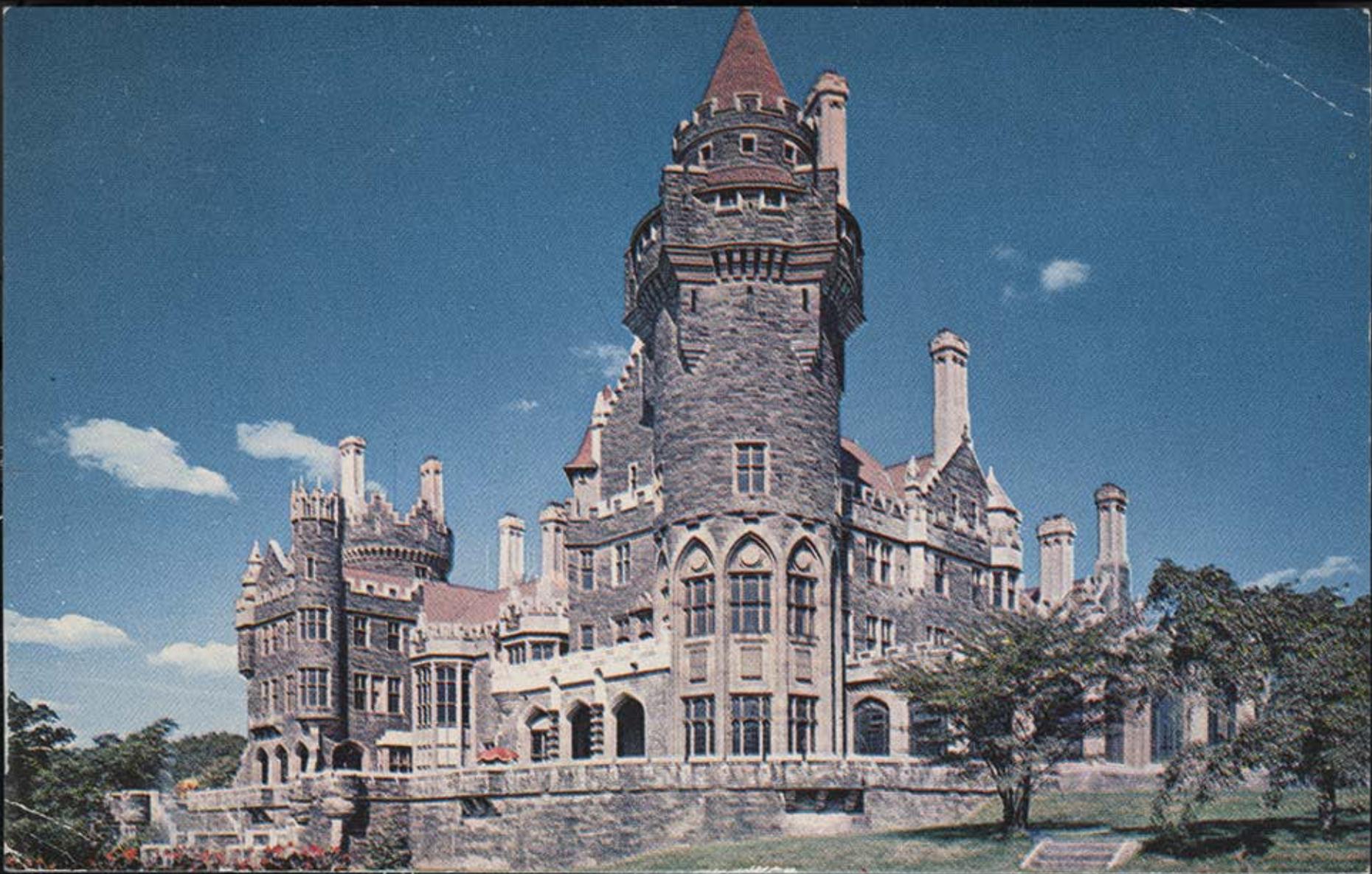
We are just sitting for a bit after a nice dinner in the Royal York. Lamb Curry to be exact. Spent the morning having Pete's glasses adjusted a bit on his nose & seeing an Exhibition of Canadian Art at the Academy. It's a nice day, rather a chilly wind.

May try another museum this afternoon. Ran out of ink.

Worked well yesterday. George left us at Station. Put some bags in lockers where you take the key. Checked 3. Then walked to office. Saw Miss Burditt who took Kelly's camera to be unloaded - met Julian Crocher who they were anxious we should meet & then Miss Burditt came to train & saw us off - Will write more from the train. Hope you are fine & having really nice Thanksgiving with the Roddys!

Loads of love & love to all

Pete & Catherine



We arrived on time this A.M.
a lovely day, though so far
haven't gotten beyond the Station
- it's nearly ten. Checking baggage
etc. Hope to visit a few art
galleries & leave tonight
will reach Baulf Thursday
afternoon. Many thanks
for everything & see you in
a few months time. Lots of
love Rita & Catherine.

CASA LOMA
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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P12963

POST CARD

Mrs Cliff M Ross

Box 306

Concord

Mass.
U.S.A.





The Canadian

en route

Wednesday
Nov 27, 1957

Dearest Mother,

I thought I'd better
have something to mail to you
to-day by air from Port Arthur
or Fort William at the head of Lake
Superior.

Last night we
struck winter at the first stop
after leaving Toronto. We were about
8 o'clock. A couple of inches of
snow - crisp & cold so it felt
quite wintery when we stepped out

Today when we woke there was about 6 inches of snow & it was snowing a little at White River but later it turned to rain & is warmer & melting. Rather a drab day. Big waves crashing against the rocks along Lake Superior.

We went into another car so as to sit on the other side to see what we could of the shipwreck. There seemed to be several children 2 little girls 9 & 10 & a little boy 8. Then a very small one who couldn't find his daddy. another very plump one who was helped to a drink of water about the same age & then a dear little girl of 6. We thought there must be

2 families. Then a nice pretty young mother, rather large with a baby in her arms. Pete asked if they were all her family & she said "yes 7 of them". Her husband doesn't look very old either.

At Schreiber a little while ago we stopped 10 minutes & the father & the 4 eldest all got off to say good bye to the grand mother. It was raining too much for the mother & 2 little boys 2 & 3 to get off with the baby. But her sister-in-law came on. So now we know all about them!

They are missionaries in Dutch New Guinea & 5 of the children were born there. 2 on leave. The sister is a missionary

to Indians I guess up along
 Lake Superior. The mother having
 broken a hip for the 2nd time came
 to her to be looked after & this was
 the 1st day downstairs & to the station
 91 was the main mother. 72 & she
 evidently felt she was saying good-
 bye for the last time as they will
 be gone another 6 years (have been
 home for one year have) So I said
 you had felt that way for nearly
 20 years & was 93 now. & the wife
 piped up "she felt the same way
 last time we said good bye & she
 was 65 then". However a 6 year
 stretch is quite long between
 visits. so guess you are lucky
 Pete wasn't a missionary!



The Canadian

en route

The man was born in Holland but has lived all his life in Canada. They are interdenominational missionaries to such primitive people that 3 married couples live in a guarded compound up in the back country & are in constant radio communication with their headquarters.

We had quite a day in Toronto. Saw the Canadian National Academy exhibition in the morning at the Toronto Art Gallery. Returned for a good lunch at the Royal York

→ got Pete's other glasses out of the baggage in the locker.

Then took the only subway in Canada up to Bloo St. Quite nice & very quiet. All the stations are pale colored plastic panels that make them bright & clean & rather gay.

Then a street car to the Museum, where we found lots of interesting Indian things. The new displays very well done. Noticed a photographic exhibit of Chinese pictures & as we glanced at those noticed a girl heretate. It was Sillian Sara Fuchin a very talented

7

art student at the Bayliff
Summer School. Haven't seen
her for a couple of years & had
wondered how she was getting
on in Toronto at art school there.
So we had coffee to-gether.
Fenny to run with her.

Then to Carveth's the jewelry
dealer & had a chance to speak
to Mr Carveth & meet his 2 sons.
+ the Subway back to the station.
We have a much better feeling
about Toronto now.

Lunch time so all for this
letter. We have been talking about
an trip east in the spring. What
type of car will get etc -
Loads of love from us both
Catherine

On Canadian
Nov 28 1957
Thursday -

Dearest Mother -

It is Thanksgiving Day & right about now you should all be gathered together eating a great big dinner at Frances & Gels. Hope it is as lovely & sunny there as it is here. quite mild & only a few traces of snow on the ground.

The train is a bit rough & my other pen is dry. In 2 hours we will be in Calgary having had lunch first so thought I'd have something ready to post so you would know we are practically home - We will soon be catching our first glimpse of the Rockies

Nothing very exciting about the trip across. The time has gone very quickly & no doubt we won't be as tired going this way as we would have been flying at night.

Will send a wire to the Roddys though you may have already finished dinner but being a bit Scotch it will let you know we are as far as Calgary. Will write from Banff to-morrow
Loads of love from us both
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Nov. 29, 1957

Dearest Mother,

I will send this letter Air Mail so you will know that we got home safely and then after this may just use the ordinary mail.

It was nice when we arrived and Eldon was at the station to meet us. Found we had a new niece born just a week ago to Bev and young Cliff White, haven't seen her yet but believe they come home from the hospital to-day or tomorrow.

We got the battery put in the car right away so could use that. Eldon brought us up on the news for a lot has been going on since we left, then we did the shopping for supper, came home and had put the car away when we remembered the bags at the station that were checked through, so got those. Then decided as the plumber is up at Lake Louise to turn the water on ourselves. We have often done it but this time several plugs and things had been left off, so first there was a little leak near the washing machine, so Pete turned it off again until we had closed that. Then we noticed a leak in the back downstairs toilet, so he ran down once more and turned the back part of the house off. Much running up and downstairs on my part to see if the water was running through all right and opening and closing taps. Then Pete thought he heard water running so went down in the basement to find several inches of water in the corner of the basement where the water pipes are and it must have been spurting out a connection for he got soaked turning the water off again and luckily had his overshoes on when he sloshed through the water. We discovered a plug missing in the pipe leading to the pump connection which had been removed when the pump was taken out. Luckily Pete spotted it

sitting on top of a pipe and put it back in, and all was well. So once more he turned on the main water, and this time there was a small leak in one of the back taps. Sometimes when the heat is on in the house it dries out the washers if the water is turned off.

Anyway we thought it best not to have the water on in the back of the house last night and so we had no hot water either. However we have it fixed this morning and all is much better.

We hope you had a nice day yesterday and aren't too tired to-day. We really enjoyed being with you and it made us happy to think you could get down for meals with us, maybe to make the effort of coming down really worthwhile you could invite someone like Mrs Sohler to lunch, or Eleanor Johnson, bet they would enjoy it too.

There is so much to do around the house and soon we will have to think of going to Edmonton, lucky we got back in time to get a little settled in here first.

Lots of love to you mother and to all the rest of the household from us both
Catharine

P.S. Such a nice letter from Sted telling of your very helpful gifts to us both. Pete put his big check into the bank towards the new building & I have mine in an American account. Haven't decided just what to use it for. but might get a car for us to use when we take our trip to Maine & New Brunswick next spring - Many thanks -
Catharine

Saturday

Didn't get out in time to mail this yesterday.

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday, Dec. 1, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Our first Sunday and must say I haven't really gotten started yet in getting things done. Perhaps it is because we are spoilt, have no one to plan our meals, open our beds or be sure we use the finger bowls and mind our Ps and qs.

There are always lots of things to see to. The new building on the corner is getting on slowly, but they have a good part of the cellar and foundation done. May have to stop work this winter if the weather turns cold. Your nice gift to Pete came at a most useful time, we were at the bank Friday but will go again to-morrow as there is quite a lot to see to there.

Yesterday went to the church tea at the Anglican church and saw lots of people, evidently they missed us which is always nice to feel. The town is rather quiet at this time of year so guess it is more noticeable when one is away. Everyone has been asking for you. They take a real interest in how you are getting on. Those like the Wards and Pearl Moore, Mrs Painter & Edmee who know you and those who have just heard about you. They all think you are remarkable for your age and want to hear all about what you can do etc. You have become a very real person to them in their imagination and they are really interested in your welfare, are always sending love and greetings to you and hoping you are feeling well,

Syd Vallance was here after lunch yesterday and we had a nice talk. He and his wife Doris are going to the West Indies with their son and daughter in law from Calgary, also a friend. Peter, the son, is a lawyer too and taking a month off. On the way back we are hoping that Syd and Doris can stop in Boston as it would be very helpful for him to meet Sted. Guido Perera and Jim Orr in connection with my affairs as he is our lawyer here. He is quite keen on it all depending how long they stay in the West Indies. He told us that you are the one he would like to meet the most having heard so much about you and also having read Mrs Wayman's book about Grandpa and Japan Day by Day. He would also like to go to Salem and to see the Museum there. So now we are talking about meeting them in Boston if they stay long enough in the West Indies so we it will be time for us to make you another visit. They are a wonderful couple and Syd is more fun.

Do hope you aren't losing your ambition about going downstairs for meals, as we want you to keep fit for our next visit. Even if we were in Concord a month we didn't do half the things we planned to do and when Pete gets his new glasses we should be able to do much more.

Time to go for the mail and a little run in the car. The weather has been overcast but not really cold as yet. We may go to Edmonton to see Dr Marshall this week, have to call him first for an appointment. Should be gone just a couple of days.

Many thanks again for a lovely time with you and to Hanne for all the extras she did for us, including the best desert I have ever tasted. and to Mary for the many extra steps and George for the rides to town etc. Hope Pietro is feeling OK again. Cis Ward has a morning glory in her sun room and it has a blossom each morning.

loads of love to you from us both and to the rest of the household too.

Catherine

a Happy Birthday to you Mother!

Box 370
Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Dec. 3, 1957

Dearest Mother,

It was wonderful to get your two nice letters written just a week ago. I did mail a card from Toronto when we arrived but it might take longer to reach you than one from Montreal. However by now you will know we are home safe and sound. We sent a wire from Calgary to Frances thinking that you might still be eating ginner and in any case she would let you know about it. Hope you all had a really nice time, It takes kids as well as grandparents to make a real thanksgiving.

Am glad that Dr Piper has given you a new set of rules, though you didn't say what they were, but as he let Mrs Hosmer go it must mean that he thinks you are doing fine. I don't blame you for getting a little tired of someone like that every day but she must be an excellent nurse when one is really ill. You spoke of a friend of Hanne's coming when she is away, that should just work out fine and be sure and have her too the day that Hilda is away and any afternoon that Hanne is out, so you won't be alone upstairs so far from anyone. You may not think you need someone within call but it is a precaution or sort of insurance, for sure as no one is handy, that is the time you may need them most. and it is a big house.

You spoke of playing solitaire, isn't there a good one called Russian bank that is sort of a double solitaire which you play with someone? I bet Eleanor Johnson would be able to show you how. There is a real fascination in a good solitaire and as you say, would be easy on your eyes. Wonder how a picture puzzle would be? remember how we used to do them so much of the time.

Had a nice letter from Mildred when we returned and one yesterday from Cousin Jane. We will be busy soon trying to get our Christmas cards and notes away. Are having a photograph this year as Pete isn't supposed to draw as yet and there isn't really time for much. Hope to have them done this week. Yesterday we telephoned to Edmonton and are to go up on the train Sunday evening, probably for a couple of nights and if he can get his glasses then we will be there several days. Don't know when I will get anything much done for Xmas!

Pete is just looking at the Illustrated London News for Nov. 16th. and noticed a picture on page 831 of Whitney Stone presenting a cup, in a top hat, I wouldn't know him at all.

This should really be a birthday letter, We hope you have a very happy day and expect all your friends will want to wish you well as we do. We will be thinking of you but know you don't want a present!

Thanks for the little pictures of Krieghoff's, we hadn't seen those particular ones before. Strange there is such an interest in his things but they are good of that time in eastern Canada.

Just now we are waiting for the Architects from Calgary to come around. They come up every so often to see how the building is coming on.

Loads of love

Catharine -

(over)

Funny your letter crossed the one from
Josephine Kelly - I often have that sort
of thing happen.

Banff, Alta.
Thursday
Dec. 5, 1957

Dearest Mother,

You say you are loeing your mind, well mine isn't any too good to-day. Have just written a 3 page letter to Jim Orr about all sorts of business things and now I can't think at all!

Another nice letter from you to-day. We thought you were real smart to go to the big Thanksgiving dinner and even if it did keep you resting more for a few days afterwards, I expect it was worth it really. You just have to expect things like that to tire one. It was fun to think that after all the years you had the Newburys for Thanksgiving that they could have a turn at having you and actually it is more fun for the children if it is a part of their family life, I expect they never will forget that particular dinner when both you and Mrs Chamberlain were there, and even Cousin Bert isn't as young as he used to be.

We have been very busy with business matters in connection with the new building, arranging the finances and deciding all sorts of things, It takes lots of time. Pete has been busy too and this morning one of the Architects was up as we are trying to decide if it will be best to have 3 suites or a resteraunt over the stores. We had planned the aprrtments but then a couple originally from Banff wants to have a nice resteraunt there and it might be a good idea to do that instead. Means changing the inside and the windows but luckily the contract was drawn up to allow for such changes.

We are also trying to get the Christmas cards printed and Pete is experimenting with the camera he bought second hand in Boston. He made a bit out of wood and has to try some shots to see if it will work.

Hope you have a nice birthday and feel real well that day.

I haven't sent you a present as you said not to, and as yet haven't thought of one for Christmas!

Wonder if you got the snow New York had, 60 was pretty warm for this time of year. It is mild ^{here} or has been, but 20° now and clear, so think we are in for some cold weather, we were hoping it would hold off until all the cement is poured.

Had two little girls to see us yeaterday, they like to come in after school.

Loads of love and will try and be more interesting next time.

Catharine

Box 370
Banff, Alta.
Dec. 5th 1957
Saturday

Dearest Mother,

I don't seem to be getting very far in writing to you. This morning I spent vacuuming most of the house and then we were out early shopping and made two calls, one the mother of a friend of Petes who died while we were away. and then as the store where I wanted to do most of my Christmas shopping was closed until this afternoon we came back for a quick lunch. Then while I shopped, Pete went up to see the Morants. I got the ~~more~~ family things from the one store, all the grand neices and nephews and cousins etc. sweaters for most of them, a few blouses, and socks for the men. We knew the store was having a little trouble paying their bills, as the girl who runs it bought too much stock this summer, so we could help them at the same time as getting the presents.

We expect to take the train to-morrow afternoon, Sunday, a good connection for us. Leave at 3.30 and get to Calgary about 5.30 then catch a dayliner for Edmonton at 6.30 and reach there at 10 PM. We stay at the Corona Hotel. Pete is to see Dr Marshall at 5 pm the next afternoon ~~so~~ we have a whole day in Edmonton and then spend Monday night there as well. If ~~the~~ Pete is to get new glasses we may have to stay another two days while they are ground and fitted. but hope ~~to~~ to be home by Thursday or Friday at the latest. However it is going to make my Christmas preparations a bit hurried, especially getting the cards away and with notes :

We were so sorry to hear about Miss Morison breaking her leg, Wonder if you got up to see her? It just shows how easy it is to fall if you are just a little dizzy or unsteady. We have a friend here who doesn't seem very old, must be over 60 but certainly not 70 and while we were away she said she fainted twice and fell in her house, luckily didn't break anything but got two black eyes the last time, and her family took her to the hospital for a week as they were afraid she might do it again. So if Dr Piper has made you promise not to walk alone, without someone near by just to steady you, you be sure and do as he says. There is one thing you should be thankful for, that it is only in your limbs you are unsteady and not in your head! Think how stupid it would be for all your friends and Hanne and us if you were wandering or befuddled in your head, and yet could run up and down stairs and in and out of rooms, steady as could be. It is better for everyone to have you *right*

interesting to talk to & that's what you are -
Last night the John Jaiggs were down to tell us about the tea-house or restaurant to be built on the top of the new chair lift up Sulphur Mt & right now Cyril Paris has come in so I will have to finish this if I am to mail it today.
Loads of love
Catherine



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

Monday.
Dec 9, 1957

Dearest Mother.

Here it is your birthday & we are in Edmonton. Pete has an appointment with Dr. Marshall this afternoon & then we will know whether Pete is to get a new lens in his glasses for the new eye or have to wait another month. If he can get the new lenses then we may stay until they are ground. Otherwise we go home in the

morning.

It was nice to get your letter about the trip to see the new hospital - yes, Gel did take Kitty & me all through the new building before it was really finished. Is it open yet? for patients not sightseers like you.

We thought it a wonderful thing for you to see it all & how much easier to be wheeled about. That's what you should do next summer when you want to visit gardens. Like the Buttricks & you could go to the Seever Museum



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

that way too. You know the modern wheel chains are very light & fold up into no space so you take them in the car.

We had a real Chinook in Banff yesterday. Started in the night & most of the snow on the ground was gone by morning & the leaves blowing about. A Chinook is a strong west wind, warm in winter. It was 42° , & in Calgary 60° above. We haven't seen such a strong wind for ages - The tall spruce trees

were bending way over & sway up about with the extra strong gusts. The dead top of a Salix of felled blew off at the back of our house. very convenient really for now we can easily take the trunk down. I even saw one dead tree next door go down.

We took our bags to the station about 2.30 & found 2 large Spruce trees across the River road & 2 uprooted ones on the main street which had fallen into the old telephone building. Several smaller trees were down but hardly any topped which often happens.



J. L. ARDERN, Manager

CORONA HOTEL
EDMONTON
CANADA

We walked to the Station
- it was so gusty I tied my
hat on with a scarf. We heard
down there from Bill Martin
who lives across the bridge
that a tree had fallen across
his truck & many more down.

There was no rain with
- it. Just wind. Later while we
were waiting ^{in Calgary} for the Edmonton
Train all the lights went out.
Evidently Power lines near
the mountains down. For the
wind wasn't too strong in
Calgary. Rather inconvenient
in the Station with people trying
to board trains & just one trying

6

light at the "helmet" window.

We had a good trip up on a fast "Dayliner". Budd cars similar to those which come through Concord. 185 miles in 3 1/2 hours + about 10 stops - must average 50 or more. We left Bayuff at 3.30 + were here by 10 P.M.

Will write again soon.

Lots of love from us both,
Catherine

Calgary Alta.
Tues. Dec 10, 1957

Dearest Mother.

We are on our way home. Everything went well in Edmonton yesterday. It was rather cool & carefully icy walking so after going out in the morning we took it easy in the afternoon until time to go to see Dr. Marshall. He was very busy, a room full of patients. Pete's appointment 5 P.M. but it was nearly six when we got away. His office is connected with the University Hospital.

He was very pleased with the condition of Pete's eyes. Gave him the usual card to read & Pete started in at the top. After the first paragraph he said "Shall I go on?" & Dr. Marshall said "There is no need to, that is the smallest print anyone can read." Then he prescribed the new glasses. & the Optical Prescription man has a little office right there so that was easy. & he will send ^{3 pair} them to Pete in a couple of days. Also gave him the Prescription for the Tri-focals so we stopped off in Calgary to have that ^{done} might save a trip down later this week. We even were lucky getting a bus back. They

come every 20 minutes & we were so busy crossing the slippery street we didn't notice the bus ^{was} coming, & just stepped on with no wait at all.

We were sitting in our room & thinking about going to see Lowell Thomas Jr in the evening, when Pete said "If we take the night train we can have the morning in Calgary." He to see about the Tifocals with Mr. Humphrey & I to go to the U.S. Consul & do some Christmas shopping. So though it was after 7 o'clock, we called the CPR Station, got a bedroom reserved, had a sandwich downstairs, checked out & packed & got the driver we had before - (Mr. Hay) & he drove us at 8 PM to Station where we checked our bag, put 2 in Parcel place, picked up tickets. Then he drove us over to the New Auditorium where we got seats in the 2nd Balcony Centre to see & hear Lowell Thomas Jr. give his "Travelogue - Adventures & etc". Must have been over 2000 there. He complimented Edmonton on the finest

auditorium had ever been in. Ran
 into some friends too. Mr Hay ~~was~~
 picked ^{us} up at 10.30 & drove us to
 station where we caught 11.30 train.

Have done errands in Calgary
 this morning & Pete has ordered &
 been measured for his tri focal
 So now we are ready to take Canadian
 to Banff. A lovely day.

Loads of love. Train due soon
 Catharine

Banff,
Alberta.
Thursday
Dec 12, 1957

Dearest Mother,

My recent letters all seem to be written in a hurry or on my lap - It is now 6.45 AM & we are about to start for Calgary to have Pile's new glasses adjusted. It is 32° above here & 45° there so we thought it might be a good chance.

He had to have a new lens for each pair in the right eye. Long distance, reading, & dark glasses. The one for the Tri focal may not come until after Xmas as it takes longer to grind & has to be done specially in Toronto.

Later. We are now in Calgary. Left at 7 AM. It was dark until we were nearly out of the mountains but the road clear most of the way. It is about 9.20 now. Jim parked right outside the Medical Building even the meter has time out ~~it~~ left.

You know it was Monday at 5 PM Pete had his appointment in Edmonton. 6 o'clock before he finished having the glasses measured. We took the midnight home that night. Spent Tuesday morning in Calgary, Pete seeing about the Tri focals & I doing some Christmas shopping. We were in Banff by train at 4.30

Wednesday
Yesterday morning I wrote some letters & we listened to Lester B Pearson. (the former Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister) make his speech about Peace in Oslo Norway

after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. It lasted an hour. So we were late going out. When we got the mail about 12.30 there were the glasses from Edmonton. We thought it would be at least Saturday before they would reach Banff with the Christmas mail Rush. The optical Co. must have ground them Tuesday & they came that night to Calgary.

Pete tried them but they have to be lined up properly or he sees everything double. So this morning when he woke at 4 AM he asked if I'd like to come down. We set the alarm for 5.30 & here we are.

Suchily I did get a few packages done up yesterday. really last night. but no cards sent yet! Shall have to work extra hard this weekend. The girls things may be late.

Your last letter was a good one. You certainly were smart to get to Mrs Baggersons to shop. I would just love some little figures. Always did have a weakness for them. It was good of you to think of something like that.

P.S. Bauff - We got home by 12.30 have finished lunch. must start to do cards -

Loads of love from
us both
Catharine.

The big book came today. Many thanks
The one we picked out at the Bookshop.

Box 370
Banff, Alta.
Sat. Dec. 14, 1957

Dearest Mother,

I don't expect you will get a real letter from us until after the Christmas rush is over. We have been really busy, the first week back was so full of business matters to be seen to and things to talk over and decide and the Christmas card to plan (Sure has been expensive as we are so late the ones to Europe and the far east have all had to go Air Mail) Then the trip to Edmonton and the short one to Calgary and so it goes.

Right now I am still busy addressing ^{envelopes} and notes to friends in the states, we haven't all the cards printed yet as the paper hasn't all come. Have parcels to get away by the first of next week to the family in Canada, find express is as quick as anything which helps.

How are you? The mails have been very slow lately. Guess there must have been such a deluge of it in places like Boston that no mail has come from the states the last few days, and no doubt you don't get ours. Can't see why Air Mail takes so long. If we write to the office in Boston on a Monday, we have an answer back by the end of the week.

We did have a lovely letter from Mercelia, I forgot that, came yesterday I think. About last Sunday when Kitty was with you for dinner and this weekend she leaves for Florida. What cold weather they have had there. Real frost and how disastrous for the vegetable and fruit crops.

That was quite a trip we made to Calgary in a hurry, but Pete got his glasses adjusted and is so pleased, though it still will take a while to have his eyes work together so he doesn't see everything double. He has been so glad to see at all with the new eye he hasn't minded the disadvantages. But gradually they are coming together. When we got home about 12.30 and had lunch Thursday, he went over to have the brakes checked as one seemed to have seized up, found an oil seal had broken and he was there 2 hours with them, as he likes to find out all he can about the workings of the car. I thought to get lots of notes written, but Syd Vallance came about setting up a Foundation in Canada to allow us to do the things we would like to do sometime in the future, like helping build a Library and Art Gallery, and that took over an hour. Have been working each evening too, sometimes doing up parcels and sometimes writing cards until I get a stiff neck, of all things.

Pete is working on the camera he bought second hand and I must do a bit of vacuuming and then go to a food sale, saves making cakes and cookies and theirs are usually extra special, though nothing compared to Hanne's.

We are so glad that at last they finished pouring the cement for the foundation of the new store building, has been rather a worry in case the weather turned cold, It is unusually warm for which we are truly thankful. 45 in Calgary again to-day but only 30 here. Still it has been very mild for this time of year. Usually below zero about now. We had a very light inch of snow last night but not enough to bother with overshoes.

Wonder how your birthday went off, should be hearing soon. Well I will write as soon as I get a good chance and Loads of love to you from us both and love to the others too.

Catharine

I've lost the present already!
Will send it next letter.
Found it, won't fit this letter.

Banff, Alta.
Mon. Dec. 16, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Didn't know if I would get a letter written to you or not to-day. Yesterday which was Sunday I worked all afternoon and morning on cards, got about 150 done but still have all the Canadian ones to do. I am afraid you won't approve but it is the only way we keep up with our friends and we enjoy news of them on their cards to us, so have to reciprocate in the ones we send them.

Last night we were invited out to supper at Eileen Harmons and the Morants were there too so we had a very nice evening. Eileen's little girl about ten was there, Her parents have flown to Scotland for a month with the mothers family, Carol is the sweetest little girl and Nick did a bit of teasing so of course she had giggles, a very happy nature and very plump!

The Vallances were down this afternoon for a short time but otherwise we have been busy. Pete even cleaned or rather tidied the workshop to-day.

Your letter of the 11th has just come and yesterday the one about your birthday and all the flowers. Sounded very nice, guess my present didn't get there on time so if it didn't, save it for Christmas!! I have another tiny one which may amuse or interest you, has the advantage of being returned without even Hanne having to do it up, it goes in an envelope!

What a good idea having Helga help and not needing the nurses. They were both good but it does get a little tiring. Did George fix up the buzzer or bell for you? He had enough wire and I think a bell something like the one in the dining room, so you could call Hanne or Helga at night. Then they can rest, knowing the bell will waken them. Otherwise one can't sleep and be listening too.

When I wrote it was better to be dizzy in your body than in your head. What I really mean't was that it was better having your legs wobbly than to have your mind ~~was~~ weak. For you are very bright in your head and seems to me that is more important than being able to dash about.

Any news of Martha Chase? Do hope she is getting on alright.

Don't expect letters too regularly for with the Christmas rush on it is hard to tell when mail will go and how fast. Have you any plans for Christmas Day yet? I think we are going up to the Wards for Christmas dinner and rather expect Barbara and Jon and the others home.

Better get over to the mail with this.

Loads of love
Catharine

Hope Pete's present reaches you
in time. We sent it Air Mail
yesterday.

Box 370
Banff, Alberta
Wed. Dec. 18, 1957

Dearest Mother,

This is supposed to be a letter for
Christmas but unless I have great good luck you may not
get it in time. Though one would think Air Mail would
get there in a week. Though you may not have a very
Merry Christmas I hope it is a Happy one for you and
you may be sure we will be thinking of you extra hard.

I thought I was getting on pretty well
with Christmas preparations but it always takes longer
than one thinks, and we did go out to supper one evening,
and the next up to see the Tabuteaus who had called on us
the evening we were out, They flew to Honolulu the day
before we left Banff for the east and were there about
3 weeks and of course wanted to tell us all about it, and
show us their photos etc. so that took longer than I
expected and with ironing I did no cards that night.
Then last night I spent doing up all the presents for
Lila, Pete's sisters family, and got two boxes ready to
express this morning and to-day did up the boxes for
the Campbells and big Cliff, Pete's brother, and Don
(his son's) family and we just sent them by express
in the other direction. Pete said it looked as if the

Big Wind had hit out kitchen, I can't seem to do up Christmas parcels without scattering paper and twine and dropping seals in every direction. Without doing more than tidy it up a little I went in to finish the cards for the eastern and western Provinces and was getting on nicely when I upset a whole bottle of ink, and to make matters worse it ran, and everything I grabbed flipped ink somewhere else. Dashed into the kitchen to get ~~kakin~~ kleenex or paper towels and it was the last sheet of paper in the kleeneX box, luckily the paper helped but doesn't absorb as quickly, Pete was in the dark room so couldn't come, I didn't tell him until after as it was such a stupid thing to do. Went all over the table cover so had to stop and take everything off the big table "willy nilly", and wash that. Such a fool thing to do! Luckily it didn't ruin more than a couple of cards but splattered a few envelopes and blackened one sheet of addresses so will have to figure carefully who is missing.

Soon, at 5 o'clock, we are going up to the Vallances to a little party as they go to Calgary for Christmas, Sunday. Just had a card from Barbara and she and Jon come Saturday morning, Harold that night and Davey the following week so they will all be home for Christmas this year.

Guess I had better get back to the cards and also change my dress. Loads of love to you all in Concord and a special lot for you, and I will write more after Christmas.

More love from us both

Catherine

Banff, Alta.
Fri. Dec. 20, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Just another rather hurried note before we go for the last mail, the train from the east was a good 4 or 5 hours late as it often is at Christmas time.

A nice letter from you yesterday, written the 12th. after Eleanor Johnson had been there. Did I ask you how Martha Chase is? It is so nice you have young friends, even Madie is 10 years or more younger than you.

This is the season when we are apt to be social, and last night we were asked to the Lappers for drinks at 5.30. He is the new and Young Bank manager and his wife "Cozy" from the Peace River Country. Turned out it was supper too, so had a very nice evening and came home about 8.30 to do more cards. We had delicious buffet supper, cold turkey and ham, salad and scalloped potato, Coffee and Mince tarts, She is a very good cook.

The afternoon before we were at the Vallances, about 25 others, but not for supper, 7.30 when we came home from there and full of hors d'oeves, or rather cheese etc. It is quite amusing, but all the people who give parties on that street have Mrs Powell come half way through and wash up. Works very well but of course they can't have their parties the same night! She only does it for people up that way.

To-morrow night we go to the Wards for a Christmas party and a different crowd, all the people who are alone, widows and widowers and a few like us. Then Christmas day we are going with the Wards up to Elsa Watts for dinner which will be fun. We sure are eating well.

A parcel just came by express from Cowley, always done up so attractively by Eleanor. The boys made the presents. a drawing by Ian, a letter from Timmy and a wooden thing to hold my in going and outgoing mail for the desk. and a cake and some black current Jam.

Must run so heaps of love from us both,

Catharine

Box 370
Banff, Alberta
Sunday, Dec. 22, 1957

Dearest Mother,

We have had quite a time these last two days, always a lot to get ready for Christmas and no matter how much I think I will do ahead of time, I rarely get much done. Friday evening we got all the Banff cards addressed and sealed and ready to mail, over a hundred all told, and only 5 left which I got notes written with to-day.

Yesterday morning I tidied a little and did the wash and then we went out early to mail the cards and see if the train was on time, it wasn't, so came back for an hour before going to the station again. Barbara and Jonny came, so met them and drove them home, then did all the shopping we could before lunch. We intended to do a lot of tidying up but Nick and Willi Morant came just as we were finishing lunch and were here nearly an hour and we had to go over town for something, Oh, Yes, the list of Indians to send parcels to in Morley, not hard to do for they box them up and see that they go down to be distributed. Then we did get the back hall cleaned up and lots of things from there put away. Just haven't had time before, and a box of things arrived from the Campbells too. Also a notice that Pete's ~~six~~ Tri-focal lens for his glasses has come in Calgary, so we are hoping the weather stays good and we can go down for that, hope to leave real early in the morning. *Monday*

Then at six we went up to the Wards for yet another Xmas party. We sure are gay, 4 nights out this past week! It was a very nice evening. The Vallances being the couple we have been with 2 previous evenings and the Kennedys one evening, and then a Mr Chadwick who's wife died last spring and a Mrs Unwin and her daughter, and Mrs Leathwaite who's husband died a year ago. ~~We had~~ And Elsa Wyatt who is divorced, and Mrs Dignall who also lost a husband recently. All sort of lovely souls. We had a drink first and then a buffet supper. Turkey, ham, potatoes, 2 vegetables a salad and for desert Trifle, and real trifle with rum in the custard and sherry in the cake part and pie and mince tarts and tea or coffee. Cis had cooked it all and it was very good and then we helped wash up. After which we played bingo while Pete, Syd and Sam talked and do you know it was midnight before we came home!

To-day, we had a turkey to cook hoping to have it on hand to nibble at during the Christmas holiday, for we have Boxing day as a holiday too. An English custom which makes the day after Christmas a holiday. So we had the alarm set for 7.30 to be up, in time to stuff the turkey for dinner. From about 8.30 ^{AM} until ~~10.30~~ ^{5 PM} I don't think I sat down at all. The turkey took nearly an hour to get all set and in the oven. Then I had the kitchen to clean and tidy and the front room. Pete sorting magazines and papers and taking what we could like that, upstairs out of the way. About noon, I changed, and put on the mashed potatoes and turnip, meant to have peas but forgot. The Morants were due at 12.30, but about 12.20 Harold appeared, he had come last night. Then Nick to say that a man had just arrived to look over his father's collection of stamps and Willi was feeding him so they would be a little late. We said to bring him down here but Nick thought that would take too much time from looking at the stamps, so he said they would be back in 20 minutes. Then Barbara followed Harold over, but we

not on me
on the stove ->

hadn't enough for them too and she said she had ^{just} put a roast on ^{at this house}. Then Jonny arrived followed by Davy and soon the Morants were back. ^{Am} sure the boys mouths were watering but it was a small turkey, about 10 pounds and it would have all gone, and our idea was to cook it for later. So They were polite enough to say they didn't want any but they stayed and watched us eat, for they enjoy Nick, he is lots of fun. The turkey was good but not as moist as it had been. Anyway we all ate plenty and I had made cranberry sauce too, and Doris Vallance had made some mince tarts that did for desert, and tea too. Harold left for Beckers and Barbara to look at her roast and Davy too, so Jonny stayed and had a plate of turkey and stuffing for we had finished the potatoes and turnips. The Morants were just going when Norman Knight came in. He had been up to see them and found they were down here and as his sister was having ^{tea} a party at their house he had been sent off.

So while we did the dishes and (I made a turkey sandwich for Norman) he sat and ate that and talked. Then it was nearly 4 o'clock and we had to go for the mail. I had thought of calling you on the phone but no chance. Then back here to read a big pile of mail and ~~send~~ the last 5 cards that needed notes with them, and Davy came in to ask about something. Of course it took me twice as long to try and concentrate with him here and Pete trying to write Dr Marshall but by 6 I had the last letter copied once more and in it's envelope and we took it to mail, Davy leaving too.

So now we are through supper, it is 7.30 ^{PM} and I have a lot of parcels to do up for the family and kids in Banff and we must be up at 6.30 ^{AM} if we want an early start for Calgary. Have a few things to get while Pete has his glasses done.

You can see my mind isn't working too well or quickly tonight and if only Mary were here, the silver isn't cleaned yet, but we think we won't bother with a tree this year.

Another joke on me, when I cleaned the desk I found the Christmas present I was going to send you that you could look at and send right back, and remember now, in the rush the other day, I couldn't get it in the envelope all addressed and stamped. and now it won't get there for Christmas, but I heard from Miss Burditt that she has gotten the thing I asked her to see if she could find so I feel better.

We do hope you had a lovely Christmas and shall be looking forward to your letters.

Loads of love from us both

Catharine

PS. The prettiest card has just come from Hanne, do thank her and did I tell you that the various boxes have come, the one with the toys too.

This is rather a mixed up letter. Hope you can make it out. Did you notice on Olive Adams letter. Cousin Anna Adams had died. & Mr George Newbunys that he & Cousin Marcan are giving up their house & going to live with Olive Buckley.

Banff, Alberta
Thurs. Dec. 26, 1957
Boxing Day.

Dearest Mother,

Christmas is over except for the holiday to-day which is Boxing Day. It was really rather a quiet one in Banff, the weather too was mild and this morning nearly 30. about 2 inches of snow last night.

We shall be anxious to know what you did and who came to see you etc. Your letter of the 19th has just come this morning, no mail yesterday. (I should have gotten this off Christmas day but just didn't have time to write in the afternoon) It was the day the Miss Stimpsons called on you *the day you wrote us*

Don't think I have written since we went to Calgary on Monday where I posted the letter, so better give you a play by play description I guess.

Saturday morning we got the letter from the Optical Prescription Co. that the lens for the Trifocal glasses had come, so Pete naturally was very anxious to get it put in as those are the glasses he finds the best to use. Otherwise he had to keep changing from the reading to the distance ones for everything he did. We set the alarm for 6 AM Monday, left here at 7.30, found little snow on the roads past the Park gate and then it was bare the rest of the way. Got to the Medical Arts Building about 9.40 and found a parking spot right on the corner with 40 minutes left on the meter. We didn't know how long it would take to put the lens in the old glasses, but you only unscrew something and it took no time at all to change them, maybe 20 minutes in all we were there. I had a few books to get, if I could at a nearby bookstore, one for Willie Morant to give Nick, the one she ordered from the east never having arrived. and Jonny had told me what Davy and Harold wanted, So was lucky and got them all and back to Pete before the time had expired on the meter, about $\frac{1}{2}$ a minute left! and we were back home before one o'clock.

Before I forget must tell you about Mr Humphrey who has been so good adjusting Pete's glasses which have to sit just right on his nose for him to see well. 3 years ago he had spent an hour adjusting the first 3 pairs of glasses Pete used and then when he ordered the Tri-focals he had measured them with such care and took such an interest in the whole thing. They worked so well and Pete was so pleased with them. Later he told us that a doctor upstairs who had cataract couldn't see well enough to operate and was most discouraged, and Mr Humphreys urged him to try the Tri-focals telling him how well they had worked for Pete, So he did, and this doctor was so pleased, said he had never seen as well. We didn't know the doctors name but when Gwen Tabuteau, (a girl in Banff who is married, has 3 children and a year ago had Jaundice after the last one was born, her gall bladder out and other serious operations, so she was in the hospital until summer and still

has to have one of the plastic tubes fixed. Really an awful lot of trouble,) told us that her doctor she thought had cataracts, we sort of wondered if it was the same one. She just thinks there is no one as fine as Dr Ingraham. and so we asked Dr Humphrey and sure enough it is the same doctor. But there is more to the story yet. The day we were down Mr Humphrey told us that there was a competition among the various Optical men , and they each wrote a paper on what they told the customers about the glasses when they fitted them. So he said he didn't really tell them anything but sighted the case of the ^STri-focals he had fitted to Pete and I guess how it had helped the doctor too and just that morning he heard that he had won the competition and the prize was \$100. So wasn't that nice ?

Later, will have to continue this in my next letter for unless we go out someone will come in and we won't be able to get away, which happened yesterday.

Many thanks for the dear little toys, we have all enjoyed them and I think that tiny little baby cart the cutest of all. Don't think I shall be able to part with them, not for a while anyway. and the books. Pete was awfully pleased with the mounted police ones and Jim Simpson has already borrowed the Charlie Russell. Will tell you more later, just must run.

Loads of love and a Happy New Year.

Catharine.

Happy New Year!
Your letter of Sunday just came the 22nd
Miss Gale could come out for dinner.

Banff, Alberta
Fri, Dec, 27, 1957

Dearest Mother,

Pete is having something done to the Jeep so it seems a good chance to finish the letter to you. To be less confusing guess I had better go back to the first part of the week.

Monday was the day we went to Calgary for the new lens for Petes glasses, had a late lunch and while we were shopping over town met Mary Lee Mather who asked if we would be home as she and Pat MacKenzie were coming down to see us, we said in an hour which we were, but they weren't. and in the end it was nearly five when they came and six by the time they left. So didn't get as much done as I should have. That evening I did up all the presents for the family.

Then Tuesday, the day before Christmas there was lots to be done. I gave up trying to do more than tidy the house as there was little time to clean and there were parcels to take around and last minute errands etc. In the afternoon we went up to Mr Scotts about 2.00 and I tried to telephone but though they could get through to Toronto they couldn't get the line to Boston so I thought perhaps a wire would send you our wishes as well and let you know we were thinking of you. Then we decorated the house a little and I took the things over to Barbaras and up to Bevs and sometimes we have people come early Christmas eve so had a very early supper and had just finished when the Morants dropped in very tired having been helping at the Photo store they have a share in. So we made them soup and turkey sandwiches, and after they left, Nellie MacKenzie and Pat, her daughter came in with a Christmas cake Pat had made for us. This is a hard Christmas for them without Dr MacKenzie and she seems so little with such a big family. We were going down to the Oakanders but by the time they left we decided not to go out as we had had a busy week and so got to bed nice and early.

Christmas morning we had the alarm set for 7 AM so we could listen to the Commonwealth broadcast and then the Queen at 8. We stayed in bed and Pete slept through some of it but I thought it was the best one yet. It was the 26th year of the program and covered before, during and after the war, We heard King George the 6th, launching the Queen Mary, and King George VI re-broadcast too, He read the poem that became so famous and written by Mrs Greenham (of Banff's) sister, and then Churchill, Bertram Russell, Queen Salote of Tonga and Lester Pearson all spoke or were re-broadcast in some specially significant thing they had said, and there were natives of Ghana and Southern or Northern Rhodesia and Ceylon, the Barbados and Jamaica etc. All very interesting and naturally brief, and then The Queen who has more confidence each time.

We opened our presents after breakfast, not too many luckily and mostly books but they did have a cosmopolitan nature, Nuts and a shell ornament from friends in Honolulu, Handkies from a nurse in London (the niece of the one who wrote the poem the King quoted during the war) a lovely linen towel from London, a silver jam spoon from Scotland. also a book. The wonderful caramels Mildred always sends us. a basket for bread with colored salt and pepper shakers to match and green handwoven naptkins all tastefully done up from the Vallances. a pretty cake from the Morants with a towel. an extra special one. Pretty German salt and peppers from Vancouver. and we have had 2 boxes of holly from the coast. and all the little toys you sent and the lovely books and three pieces of Eskimo sculpture and later on Lona brought us two little carvings from Quebec.

About 10.30 we went around to see Mr Paris and Georgie his daughter who always comes for Christmas, and then called on another old man but he had gone to Calgary, Then ran up to the Wards but they weren't up yet. and back here. Barbara had said they would be over about 11 or a little later and we could see someone had been here by footmarks in the fresh snow, (Only an inch at a time have we had) So Pete suggested we have a bite to eat as we might not get another good chance, so had cold turkey etc. and were just finished at noon when Barbara, Davey, Harold and Jon all came together and stayed until about 2. They were just up and going out for dinner so didn't want lunch. After they left we went up to see Jackie who isn't well, and then to the Mackenzies for a while, back here and Laura and Carl Oakander and their adopted daughter Judy and there new real daughter just 3 weeks old from Moose Jaw came. and before they left Lynnne Becker with an elaborate candle she had made and Lona with date bread from her mother and some bulbs about to bloom, she is just home for Christmas from McGill in Montreal where she is studying Physio-Therapy and occupational therapy too, combined with a college course. Mary Lee was with her so we had a nice call from them all. and it was 5 when they left and just time for us to get ready to go out for our Christmas dinner at Elsa Wyatts.

It was a pretty evening with fresh snow. The Wards also went and ~~Extand~~ the Vranys (he is from Czechoslavacia and she from Toronto, they live near us) and Isabel Scott who works at Bldons. In fact Isabel and Elsa had cooked the dinner, and little Monica, Elsa's daughter aged 2½. We had Glu Wine, which is hot spiced wine and very good, an Austrian drink and Swiss, then turkey and all the fixings ending with plum pudding and wonderful pie. It was all very nice and Sam told stories and recited and we came home early, about ten, but then we went at six.

Yesterday was boxing day and we had asked Barbara and the boys over for a bit of roast ^{wild} sheep that Jimmy Simpson had given us. It was frozen and I had no idea how long to cook it. Bev had said twice as long as usual for frozen meat so we cut the roast in half, and then I read just 10 minutes more a pound when you put it in the oven still frozen. I had a meat thermometer that Bev had lent me so that helped. It came out very well really. I thought noon, but wasn't sure as no red showed on the thermometer until much later and then it went up quite fast, so it was after 12 when they came and about 12.30 when we started eating. We were just in the midst of it when Annora Brown and a friend who is a photographer dropped in on their way back to Fort MacLeod, We were anxious to see them so first I talked to them while Pete finished and then he entertained them while I ate my meat and gave the boys their second helpings and then we waited until they left before having the mince pie Cis had given us. The Simpsons came over as we were washing up and then they all left about 2.30.

We went up to see Mrs Oakander later and stayed there for tea and then tried to see the Walls but they were still up the hill skiing, so instead went up to Bevs for a bit. So it was quite a busy day in all and we were glad to come home to a quiet evening.

I never did tell you about last Sunday. Think I wrote you that the Morants were coming to eat our Christmas turkey with us as we thought it would be very useful cold during the week, and so it has been, we have lived on it. We didn't ask Jon or Harold as they have such big appetites we were afraid there would be little left. I guess I did write you about that for I mailed the letter in Calgary.

Guess I better not tire you all out with writing so much and should be washing out a few things anyway. Do hope you had a Happy time. We had a lovely card from both Ebbs and Frances and they were both hoping that you would have Christmas dinner with them at Ebbs, so do hope you could, it would be fun with all the children.

Loads of love
Catharine.

writing this on
my knee.

Box 370
Banff, Alberta
Sunday, Dec. 29, 1957

Dearest Mother,

This may not be much of a letter but then the last one was long enough to wear you out. Things have slackened off a bit and now Christmas is over and that deadline for getting things done, reached and passed, we feel a bit more relaxed. Yesterday was quite quiet on the whole. Boxing day, the day after Christmas we did go to the Oakanders for an hour or so and had tea, tried to call on Eldon but they were skiing and did see Bev. Then Friday we didn't do a great deal, saw several friends when we went over town, oh yes. a young Banff lad and his wife called on us for about 2 hours in the afternoon. He had a nice talk as he is quite an artist. in commercial art, now in Edmonton and seems to be doing quite well for they have their own little car, a volkswagon, a German car very cheap to operate, and last summer went on a 2 weeks trip to the coast. Now it looks as if they were going to have a baby fairly soon. One thing about them that interests us is that they have such good taste and yet they both had a rather tough upbringing. The girl's mother died and then her father leaving a teen-age brother and one littler one for her to look after and she was only 19 herself. She worked in the telephone office but we didn't know her then. The boys mother is one of the few women in Banff who would go out to clean and she has been a very hard worker, a very cheerful and good hearted sort. Her husband has a government job now so things are better for them. The boy went to the summer school and then to Art School in Calgary.

f In the evening Pearl and Edmée Moore came down to see us, also to tell us that the doctor who looked after Carl Rungius and lived in the same building, had just died following a stroke 2 weeks ago. Strange thing is that Jim Boyce was talking to me about Carl at the Vallances party and said how he had outlived all the doctors who used to come out west to hunt or go on the trail, and each one had warned him not to do this or that, not to try hunting anymore and he mustn't drink

too much etc. and here Carl is still ^{this doctor friends} alive and about 6 we could think of have died. Carl must be about 87 now.

Yesterday we slept in and again to-day, guess we were tired. Mr Scott who lives above us was down this morning to tell about his Christmas in Calgary and Jim Boyce to ask us up to their house this afternoon. It is too funny how mild our weather has been and all around it is cold and below zero. -20 in Winnipeg and 25 above here. We won't complain, makes the winter that much shorter for people.

Will be looking for a letter soon about your Christmas. We were so glad that Gale could come out for dinner the Sunday before, we knew she was to be with the Amorys. Do hope Helga is feeling better, what a shame she should be sick just now at Christmas time when she has all her ^{own} family to do things for. Hope Hanne isn't trying to do too much but perhaps you could get someone to help her a bit in the house. and I judge you were able to keep Mrs West longer at night. for we had a nice card from her.

Did I tell you the joke on me? I made a special effort to write Kitty an Airmail letter ^{card} to Naples so it would be there when she arrived. and I also sent a scarf as a little present done up in an envelope that looked like a fat letter Or 21st so it wouldn't be delayed in the customs. Then on the 23rd. both arrived back here stamped " Forwarding address expired " by the Naples postoffice. Was I burn't up! They were posted I think the 17th from Naples or 19th. So I wired Kitty in case her other mail was being returned to the senders before she got there. and also sent these back. Don't know why they didn't just hold them a couple of days to see if she was going to be there.

Better get this in the mail so all for now and lots of love

Catherine .