

Banff, Alberta.
Thursday, Sept. 3, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Back in Banff again and this afternoon it is just pouring.

We went out on Monday and I think I wrote you from Bow Lake where we luckily took a cabin for we had a regular blizzard for about half an hour, a strong wind and blowing snow. We heard later that some people at the Icefields, some 50 miles north, had left there when it started blowing ^{10 inches} and were in the same storm the whole way down. It left fresh snow on all the mountains and up at the Icefields the hillsides were quite white when we got there Tuesday noon. Still patches of snow under the trees ^{4 inches deep} and icicles on one of the bushes in the creek where there was a burst in the water pipe and a fine spray of water spurts out. Where the sun hit, the snow and ice soon melted.

X We left Bow Tuesday morning with the sun shining and drove right up to the Icefields, Made some lunch at the campground and then went over to the Moraine below the tongue of the glacier where Pete wanted to try a sketch of the ice ~~fall~~, the shape of one big chunk was especially nice and the large cracks, it was awfully bright with the fresh snow and also pretty X chilly so he sat in the car and I walked over to take some colored pictures,

We knew Mary Simpson was due that day on a bus from Jasper. She is married and lived in Prince Rupert and has a little girl and they were coming down to be with Mrs Simpson for a couple of weeks. So when a bus drove by from the snow mobile office up to the Chalet we glanced and sure enough someone with a child was in the front seat, but we thought they were on their way towards the Banff Park ^{so just waved} and knew we would see Mary later in any case.

But pretty soon along came Mary with the little girl asleep on her shoulder, she talked a few moments with Pete and then found me and we sat in the sun out of the wind and had a nice chat, the little girl asleep

all the time , until the bus returned to pick up some other passengers and away they went. By the time I got back to the Jeep , Pete was about ready to stop as the light was so bright and we went up to the campground and picked a good spot for the night. It was cold and getting overcast, looked even like rain so we had a very early hot supper, and went to bed pretty early for it gets dark soon after 8.30 now.

Next morning was fine and real frosty too, a white frost on everything so we waited until the sun came over the mountain and then it felt quite warm for cooking breakfast on the tail gate. It was a beautiful day Wednesday and we enjoyed it to the full. Were up about 7.30 I guess and through breakfast and packed up by a little after nine. Went down again to the big expanse of Moraine and found that a big chunk of the ice had dropped off in to the little lake made from the melting glacier, iceburgs floated across, blown by the rather strong and cold wind , The boys who drive the ^{snow} mobiles said it had ~~fallen~~ fallen off about 8 A.M. We had noticed two cracks in it the afternoon before which had widened a bit. Pete wanted a few pictures with his big camera to try the film holder and we took quite a few as the light was so good for it and ~~not~~ from the side. Then we figured the light being so dazzling we would have an early lunch at the campground so went on up there. Had hardly backed into the little place one can have to oneself when a big green car headed right in towards us, We thought it rather a funny thing for anyone to do when there was plenty of room, and then a man and his wife with dark glasses stepped out and a boy and girl with them and said " Hello " Then we realized they are old friends, people who used to go to Bow Lake ~~for~~ each summer , the Harrouns from Winetka, Illinois. *many had told them we were up there*

Where we had the car on a little level bit of gravel with willow on either side, there was a table and 2 benches to sit at and warm in the sun. The Harrouns had their lunch with them, cooled the pop in the creek that runs by and we all had lunch together. They are great talkers and have just come

from Alaska, flew up, took a bus trip from Anchorage to Valdez and Fairbanks and also to Mt MacKenley park, where Bradford Washburn had been recently, They were able to tell us a lot we wanted to know and compare places here, Then they were in Mexico last winter on a trip and told us all about that. By the time they left it was getting cloudy and we thought we had had enough of the very bright light of fresh snow and ice, so started back along the highway. *They also told us about flying up to Point Barrow -*

There is a narrow dirt track from the Saskatchewan Crossing to a place called Nordegg which we have wanted to try but there are several rivers and creeks to ford and we weren't sure about it. Asked at the Wardens but he was out, his wife telephoned him as they have radio communication with the trucks, (like the taxis) and he told her he could only give permission for us to go 3 miles down and then it was Forestry and we had to have permission from the Warden who lived 30 miles down, It had taken the last car through 6 hours to do the 30 miles so he didn't advise it. but we went the first 3 miles and most of that is on a flat and they have cleared it for a road. Then we came to the creek where the bridge was washed out or rather the gravel at the side so we turned back as the sky was getting stormy and it was late in the afternoon, and went as far as Waterfowl Lake Campground and spent the night there, it was a lovely place to stay and so quiet, a cow mouse in the lake about 25 feet from us and only a few others there, one a family with a trailer came in about 8 ^{PM} and they had been in Alaska. *This AM at 6 there was the Cow Mouse & a little calf along the shore -*

This morning we were up early as it looked like rain and we wanted to get breakfast over before it started, but it cleared again and was lovely for brief periods. We stopped at a few spots on the way home and got here about 11. Were just about to eat lunch when a knock on the door, an Indian, George Kaquits, then before we had finished Eldon came about a trip to Calgary and Verne Castella to get some Rhubarb and he stayed while Pete took the Jeep to be serviced. and Sam had been here before lunch.

Found a nice letter from you, about not getting the Illustrated London News all summer, it has been the same with us, they had a paper strike in England and we have missed several copies of magazines.

We are so sorry to hear that George was in the hospital even for a couple of days, I know he minds the heat and I can understand how he would feel in a week or ten days of 90. Must have been hard on everyone. Also a long letter from Hanne and one from Cousin Alma. I will be writing soon. Didn't mean to write so much to you this time.

We had the funniest time with the squirrel up at the campground at the icefields, He came just as we were trying to cook supper and was in and out of everything, the car the frying pan, and onto the table, he is so quick and wouldn't scare easily, you would have been amused at him.

I will see if I can get some pictures of the house in summer for you.

Am glad you had Dr. Marsh come up to reassure you about your eyes, I think you have done well to write so many years without using reading glasses to do it until now. *remember how you could only write by using a magnifying glass.*
It has stopped raining so better get this in the mail,

Loads of love,

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta
Sat. Sept. 5, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Another nice letter from you today with the one from Mally Amory, too bad you can't go to her wedding and see Gale as Matron of Honor. if it were only in Concord I bet you would be there.

We are so glad that Helga is coming to cook for you and it will make it nice for Hanne too, bet you will find you start eating more, though Jessie was a very good cook.

Our weather is all wet and yours all hot, very unsettled they call it here and hard to know just what to do. For instance last night it was raining and poured during the night, then clear and lovely this A.M only to have it rain before noon and it is showery yet. We decided to stay in today and over the Labor Day weekend, there is so much traffic and usually poor drivers and the camp grounds will be full and so we might as well be right in Banff, especially if the weather is poor. Have 2 more friends we should have down. The Vince Allans on their way to Australia and the Castles from Honolulu.

Yesterday it rained a good deal, the Morants were down in the afternoon but not for long and then last evening, well late in the afternoon Jon came over. He had some photographs to send in to the ~~mapx~~ Hotel Association in connection with the scholarship he just won, wanted a large envelope and knew we had them, he ~~also~~ also wanted to show me a set of copper ear rings and pin he has to send his girl in Medicine Hat. ^{Figures} ~~Rixugres~~ it was coaching her for the final exams that got him through too. He ~~also~~ has a pipe, which he smokes with quite an air. ^He stayed for supper with us and then Margot White came down to see us. She is a young girl who finished school last year, is just 19 and was in New York at the Neighborhood Playhouse School

I think it is called. She used to act in Mrs Greenhams plays for kids here, and then got a scholarship at the School of Fine Arts one or two summers and a teacher there advised her to go to this place in New York so she went last year at 18 and evidently was given a scholarship there for her 2nd and last year. It was fun hearing all about it, she had never been in a city before and said she was glad she had gone to Montreal to visit a cousin first or she wouldn't have known what to do in a big city like New York. ~~Thee girl~~ She lived in the Y.W.C.A. first and then got an apartment with another girl, It is interesting to see and talk with someone with so much ambition to be a good actress. She smoked cigarettes and Jon with his pipe we were almost smoked out by 9.30 when they both left.

Have just had the Rileys in for tea, and now must go over for the paper and post this.

Loads of love from us both.

Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Sept. 7, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Labor Day and what a weekend for weather, It has rained nearly all the time but as Pete says probably saved lots of lives for few people drove about compared with most holidays. We have been home and I thought I would get so many letters written, but of course didn't. Not even one to you today, left it until too late.

Saturday the usual cleaning and Pete busy working on a part he made for the camera, so that by combining things he could make one lens take pictures from 16 inches to infinity. They wrote in to the head office a while back and were told it couldn't be done, though in another year they might have such an ~~adaptor~~ arrangement, so Pete figured and tried things and this weekend managed to file down a mettlescrew thing and fit it just right and build up another place with wood and it works perfectly. but took some patience. We were just going out early, about 11 o'clock on Saturday and Mr Dunford of the Jeep distributors in Calgary dropped in, he is quite a talker and loves to visit, so finally I mentioned I better go ahead so as to catch Edlon before noon and he took the hint and decided he better go too. ^{we noticed} ~~Found~~ his wife was out in the car on the road all the time. We were going to get a new Jeep last spring but he couldn't get one in time.

Saturday afternoon I was nicely started sorting out things on the desk so as to have the letters to answer soon right to hand etc. but the Rileys dropped in. Mrs Riley and her son Charles, We hadn't seen them all summer and her husband who died a year or more ago was a great friend of ours so we like to keep up the friendship. Charles is a special friend, almost ready for University. Pete talked to them while I made tea, then he went back to his job of filing down metal parts and I entertained them.

Of course the afternoon was soon gone. think I did get something done that evening. Yesterday, Sunday, it rained most all day, I did get bills paid and business things done in the morning and after getting the mail in the afternoon thought " now I can write letters, " but we had the Vince Allans drop in. He is an old friend who's father still lives here, his wife very shy and a most attractive daughter who goes to McGill in Montreal, Vince is to be Commercial Consul for Canada in Australia, quite an important job because of increased trade between the two countries. They sail on the Mariposa from Los Angeles. We had a very nice time as they are always interesting to talk to, and they like looking at the pictures too, It was supper time when they left.

However there was still today and it was still raining. So again I had high hopes. Pete had completed making the attachment and only had to test it if there was enough light, I washed woolen shirts etc. and telephoned the Castles at the Banff Springs to ask them for tea, but they had decided to stay in today being too tired, and I thought " good, now all the rest of the day for letters " 2 We were starting to get an early lunch ready and Frank Kaquits drove in in a borrowed truck. He is the Indian lad who paints and had been quite sick, so we were glad to have him look so well again, he had pictures to show us but our lunch was almost ready so we sent him over to pick up a box of clothes Barbara had left & a mattress, we were wondering how to get it down to him, and we had our dinner. Then I decided to take all my letters upstairs and write undisturbed. Got as far as " Dear Mally " for I was sending her a belated wedding present. and Pete wanted a little help in setting up an Indian Headdress in the Studio so as to photograph it with Polaroid and see how it would work with indoor lighting. That took a while to arrange a background etc. and Frank came back, with his paintings to show us, They were quite good, especially one of horses. and another half hour gone. Then we took an experimental picture and it was just what Pete wanted. But we rearranged the back ground and hung up a blanket. all of which took time, putting nails in etc.

By this time it seemed a good idea to have a cup of tea and a fresh start. so downstairs again and we were just through tea when Harold appeared. He hasn't been here for some time so he too had tea and we talked about his plans for the winter, and there was just time after he left to go on with the note started about 2 PM to Mally and mail it on The afternoon train and hope it will get there before the wedding!

Didn't realize until you sent this card from Rusty that he had gone to Kentucky, expect he will be back in time for Mally's wedding. Am glad he was having a little holiday and visiting a bit for when he got home this spring it seemed so busy with wedding preparations and then summer school.

Didn't really mean to write this much tonight, so better call it a letter. If it clears (and the barometer is dropping again) tomorrow we may go out for a few days, will be back on the 10th as Dorothy Whyte arrives that day for just 2 nights on her way to Assinaboine and we always lend her clothes to wear. Hard to realize summer is really over. the last half went so fast for us.

Loads of love and thanks for the wonderful letters, you do so well.

Catharine .

Dauph Alta.
Thurs Sept 10 1959

Dearest Mother,

at last our weather has cleared. How long it will stay goodness knows. Evidently the season is 2 weeks behind due to the cold & rainy August & the farmers are worried for there has been frost & some snow before their grain has had time to mature.

The mountains have lots of snow down to the tree line & lower in shady spots. For instance yesterday it was all white to the Keyo Lookout on the Bow Summit & today is down to Moraine Lake.

Later. It is now afternoon of Thursday, a perfect Indian Summer day & the leaves look as if they were starting to turn. We went up to Moraine Lake to sketch today. Got up there about 11 A.M. but the sketches weren't too successful. It was lovely to be out. A whole lot of Cedar Wax wings were flitting about & catching bugs in the shadow. The sun is low enough now to cast a deep shadow. Yet the

seen alone on the flies & thrips in
the air against the deep blue shadows
The birds would fly alone, I guess
with their beaks apart so you could
see them catching bugs. Then they
would fly into the tops of the spruce
& rest. 20 m

no chance to finish this
Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Sept. 11, 1959

Dearest Mother,

X Never even had a chance to read over my last scribble to
to you or it wouldn't have been mailed. I was in the midst of telling you
about the cedar waxwings flying after flies over Moraine Lake where the deep
shadow was cast by a towering mountain and the slanting rays of the sun made
each fly stand out. The birds were having a wonderful time, must have been
20 or 30 of them and after each swoop and flutter after the bugs they would
land in the top of a spruce and another bird would take off. Made quite a
noisy flutter over us all the time we were painting. Then around our feet
in and out of the rocks were the tiniest little chipmunks who seemed to be
cracking things, and every once in a while a great thundering roar of fresh
snow tumbling in huge falls off the top of Mt. Temple as the sun melted or
loosened the snow. a bit distracting watching everything at once and am
X afraid my drawing was very poor. Pete did better.

We had been late going up, not too late but after 11 when we
started painting so didn't have very long before we got hungry, maybe a
couple of hours. We had climbed up a steep path between the rocks on the
great pile at the foot of the lake and as we came down we could hear much
chatter ahead and up came a man followed by 4 sisters in great flowing robes,
and white starched fronts. They were really good sports for they were hardly
dressed for mountaineering, When they saw us they weren't quite as gay but
friendly enough and getting a real thrill out of the whole thing. One was the
Mother superior and I suppose the man was a priest. We told them it wasn't far
to the top where they could look down on the lake and later when we were over
by the lodge two of them were silouetted against the sky on the highest rock,
quite a picture but too far away to get. I was tempted to try and get a
photograph as they came up the train but didn't quite like to, had I been

quicker with a different lens I could have gotten them.

When we reached the camp ground where our car was parked, Walter Ashdown the Brewster driver came along and said the Castles were up near the lodge, had spotted our Jeep. I too had seen them drive in, as they usually take a long black car. So we went over there before eating, they were walking along the shore of the lake and just on their way back. Got a big kick out of Mrs Castle, for in one hand, as if it were a slice of Hawaiian pineapple, she held a slice of snow and was taking nibbles off it from time to time. She had picked it up as it lay on the moss beside the trail and was getting the greatest delight out of holding it and eating it as a great delicacy.

Their daughter had just flown up from California, Gwen Murphy, so it was nice to see her and we talked a bit while Mr Castle changed a film. They headed back for Banff and we had our picnic lunch and started back a little after two, just in time to reach Banff and meet Dorothy Whyte from Vancouver who came in on the Canadian. Jean Park was also down and took Dorothy back with her to the hotel, She is to go out to Assinaboine with Erling Strom tomorrow. We asked them for supper after six, and then I had to change from Blue Jeans to a skirt and we went over to get the food, mail etc. Met Mary Lee Mather as well as several others, and she wanted to see us before going to her sisters wedding in Vancouver and then on to University, so came home with us. a bit distracting when we were trying to get things ready for dinner but didn't matter really.

Jean and Dorothy were a little later than we expected having gone up to the top of Sulphur on the Gondola Lift. but we had a good meal and much talk, they are both supposed to diet so enjoyed the corn on the cob, ice cream and fresh peaches and chocolate cake. We took them up to the hotel later and came home to do dishes and get to bed fairly early.

Today was fairly hectic. Pete had to have a new pump put in the jeep something to do with the water circulation in the radiator as it leaked when we put the antifreeze in, and so we were up well before 8 and he went over early

to have that done. I telephoned the Castles after 9 to see when would be the best time for them to come down and they thought right after lunch as we were hoping to go out this afternoon later. We knew Dorothy would be down to borrow some boots and things for her trip. I had a couple of notes to get off and Billy MacKenzie had said yesterday we would be down early to see us, but he didn't show up. I had the bank to go to and several other things which took until nearly 11.30. Came home to find Dorothy had come and gone but would be back at 12.15. So when she returned we ate up the rest of the steak and corn etc.

Were just finishing lunch when Vince Allen and his son Don arrived to say goodbye. they leave Saturday for Australia, He knew Dorothy from years back so that was nice and it turned into quite a visit, even to warming up the Indian Drums to demonstrate the tone. They were all here when the Castles came along, Dorothy stayed but the Allens left, We had a good visit and they even looked at paintings. Then when they had left and we had gotten an extra pair of Blue Jeans out of the Jeep and Pete and Dorothy had packed her paint for horse back, and I had gotten the food together for our trip, and we had taken Dorothy back to the hotel and to see if a couple of friends were home and left her over town it was 20 minutes to 4 and we were both pretty weary and couldn't decide what to do. Had said we were going out and so couldn't have dinner with Brling but we thought it was too late to try and remember all we wanted to take, so in the end had a cup of tea and drove out to Minnewanka, the light was lovely and it was quiet and pleasant. Found a big black bear taking a swim in the canal near the dam, He went in and swam down stream about 100 feet and climbed out again just as anyone else might take a dip to cool off, the sun was pretty hot.

So now we are going out tomorrow and stay as long as the weather is nice, it was cloudy this morning and dull but nice this afternoon.

A nice letter from you today, expect by now the cool weather is reaching you. Heaps of love from us both,

*No time to read this
over either. Catharine -*

Banff, Alberta
Sun. Sept. 13, 1959

Dearest Mother,

We came back to Banff after one night at Lake Louise to find Hanne's nice note, it really came awfully quick, but we are sorry to hear that you were feeling real sick. What a shame just when the weather started to cool off and you might have felt like doing more. But I am sure you must be glad it happened when Hanne was with you, hope by now you are feeling all-right again.

Her letter was postmarked 12.30 PM on Sept. 11th, which was Friday and we got it this afternoon, Sunday the 13th. About the fastest any letter has come from Concord. Perhaps if they are posted in the morning they will reach us 2 days later, may be a new connection that they make.

Our good weather has ended already, lasted from Wednesday when the moon changed to the first quarter. Lots of people go by the moon. We got off Saturday morning fairly early and it was a perfect day, not a cloud in the sky. Actually a few clouds make for better painting but by now after so much rain in August we are glad if the sun shines, clouds or no clouds. We packed up the Jeep and were off soon after nine, got to Lake Louise about 10.30, perhaps a little later. It was clear as could be and we went first over to the boat house to see what the prospects were for sketching there, ~~like~~ talked a little with Walter Feuz the Swiss Guide who looks after the boats now and he was busy putting them away for another winter. We had a bite to eat and then both sketched from there. Later we decided to try a cabin we could cook in near the camp ground at Louise. Bill Walroth a Danish friend of ours has recently taken it over and we were going up there last year but the weather was never good enough. A young Danish couple are running it. The father-in-law showed us a cabin and I went down to register and pay after looking at it. But when the daughter-in-law, Grete saw who it was she wouldn't let us pay and

offered to give us the quietest cabin with a view which was just being cleaned up and would be ready in an hour. So we went over to Wapta and back in the meantime. The underbrush has all turned and was lovely and bright reds, oranges and yellows. Just a low bush of some sort but under all the spruce trees it made a carpet of color, not that one could paint it but it was lovely to look at.

We enjoyed the cabin and cooked a good supper of left overs we had taken with us, steak too. Yesterday ^{morning} Sunday, was clear as could be, we went back to the Lake after breakfast but the light wasn't too interesting so we thought of a composition in the valley where there wouldn't be as many people, too many Sunday visitors looking at the lake which can be very distracting. It had been bad enough the afternoon before and a government truck hauling gravel had backed one wheel into the lake and we had a time watching that being pulled out. So down we went where we had a lovely view of Mt. Temple. We noticed a bank of cloud in the east about 20 miles away and Pete had heard something about an east wind in Calgary the evening before but we set up the sketch boxes and started in. Not 20 minutes later the cloud had spread our way up the valley and changed the whole thing from brilliant sunshine to drab gray. It was strange, for north up towards Bow Lake it was the most perfect day, and you could already see it raining towards Banff. a sharp edge to the weather in between. We went back and cooked our dinner and packed up for by then the cloud had reached the Bow Lake area and it was starting to rain, and before we left the peaks were hidden in rain.

We got home soon after 3 o'clock thinking that in Banff we could do more than sitting in a cabin at Lake Louise. I didn't mind for I have so many letters to write but it isn't as interesting for Pete without his things to work on or books to read. So back we came. The joke was on us, we had barely stopped the Jeep in the yard when Harold appeared to ask if we would be home that evening as he would like to bring his girl friend, Elaine Van Cleave.

to see us and we get to know her, quite a serious girl and very quiet, from Saskatoon and working here this summer, her father a professor of Chemistry at the Univ. of Saskatchewan. We thought it would be alright if they came early and Harold was sure they would just stay about an hour (turned out to be 4 hours) So we lugged our things into the house, usually look at the mail before changing our clothes but this time thought to get the newspaper and so went upstairs to change when there was a very insitant knock on the back door. Pete got changed first and went down. Linnie Becker was standing there, they had seen a light and Christine Smith was peeking in the garage to see if the Jeep were back, we hadn't a chance, They would only stay a minute but hadn't seen us all summer to talk to. So of course we had gingerale and some left over cake and a nice talk and heard all about Christine Smiths Brother saving up \$1500. to go to Europe to ski and how he had friends to stay with etc. and they left about 5 o'clock, We had an early supper and I started this letter and about 7 or a little after Harold and Elaine dropped in. Then Mary Simpson to say goodbye as she leaves today, and later Jonny. So we had quite an evening including coffee and the rest of the left over cake and it was nearly 11 when they left. However we decided it was pretty nice to think that they liked to come and just sit and talk that much. Jon leaves soon for University and Harold for his three years in the Air Force, but sure was a joke on me and all the letters I was going to write. It poured all night and this morning is partly cleared but still an east wind. The colour is coming in the trees.

Hope to hear from Hanne that you are feeling better and glad to know the terrific heat is over. Wonder what Grandpa would have thought, a rocket landing on the moon.

Heaps of love,

Catharine .

3auff. Alberta
Wed Sept 16, 1959

Dearest Mother. I think I should have written you today but can't remember when I last wrote. Shows I must be breaking up! We are down at the Station to post this on the 7 PM train & see the staff of the Bauff Springs leave. sometimes quite amusing. So am writing this on my lap in the car.

Have had a cold east wind since Sunday when we came in. Am sure I told you how Lynnie Becker & Christine Smith found us home before we had a chance to even wash up. & before that Harold had spotted us driving in the yard & brought his new girl over for a good 4 hours in the evening for to.

Then Monday it was not very nice in the morning. Sam came down for quite a call but in the afternoon we did get out & up the West Road.

but it rained I think that
evening. Yesterday was just as
bad. Low clouds & a cold wind
rained all afternoon, so I worked
on business letters & Pete tried
rigging up a way to copy some
old photographs. Harold was over
& Sam too.

Today was even colder.
- right now the clouds are low
& its about 40° & has been all
day. Once it clears we may
have a nice spell. So you see
there is not much to write about.

Had such a nice letter from
you today written Sunday with
the cards from Rusty. We must
have had a good time in
Kentucky.

So glad you are feeling better
& hope now it's colder you will
have a nice time to get out.
Have you seen the Chinese water
columns at the Art Center? they
sound good.

Lots of love from us both
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. night.
Sept. 17, 1959

Dearest Mother,

A nice letter from you yesterday, written last Sunday so we were glad that you recovered in time for Sunday dinner with the Newburys, Mercelia and Rusty there. He must have had quite a holiday in Kentucky and nice they gave him such a good time. I think Southern people do more in the way of entertaining and arranging parties than we even think of, Of course all our "get-togethers" in Banff are usually on the spur of the moment and when the weather isn't too nice.

Speaking of weather, we sure have had our share of rain this summer. Haven't watered the lawn since Indian Days and the trees have grown this summer more than any year I can remember, but a little hard on the sketching out/ doors. Sunday an east wind blew in clouds which have been with us ever since. I think it was Monday it cleared in spots but was very windy and we only took photographs the effects changed so rapidly. then both Tuesday and Wednesday it poured in the afternoon and evenings and the same to night, though this afternoon we did manage to do one sketch each of yellow trees. Pete's came out very well I think, mine not much good but at least I covered the canvas, The last 3 sketches I have done I haven't even covered the canvas and one was barely drawn in. the weather and light changed so. If we only would get good weather now the trees are just changing and should be beautiful this year, but unless the weather is cold at night, frosty, and hot with a bright sun in the day time, the colour doesn't amount to much. Some years it has just gone sort of muddy yellow.

Had a letter from Barbara from Medicine Hat today, they had it 92 there on Sunday and here it rained with a cold east wind that afternoon. She wrote to tell us that Jon had been awarded another Scholarship, This time

one of the new Queen Elizabeth Scholarships granted by the government to a top student. Jon didn't get the highest marks in all his courses but had taken more courses than required in his last year so earned more credits, so perhaps that was why he got it. It is worth \$100. and he gets in on top of the Hotel Scholarship worth \$500. and with the money he saved working this summer he will be able to pay all his University expenses this year. Barbara had saved enough to help him too but he won't need it, so she is going to buy him new clothes so he will at least start out looking well.

Nellie MacKenzie, (the wife of the doctor, they visited you several years ago on a trip east, and he died very suddenly 2 years ago) has just returned from Europe with her 2 youngest kids, The eldest daughter, Pat , was married in Edingburgh this summer, is now touring Europe and camping all the way so far, Switzerland and Austria and now Italy , Don the husband has a small English car and they have just been joined by a friend named Jack to share expenses.

We haven't received Judy Palmers wedding invitation yet as I think it isn't until October she is to be married. Maybe she will bring her doctor husband to be out to see you.

Bedtime, seems to me it always is getting late at night when I write letters, but so many people drop in during the day time.

Loads of love,

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Sun. Sept. 20, 1959

Dearest Mother,

The weather forecaster on the radio said the weather was clearing from the ~~North~~ ^{South} ~~xxxxx~~ towards the north and about half an hour later it started to rain and has been raining ever since and doesn't look like stopping either. Most disappointing to have so much dull weather. Poor Dorothy Whyte who went to Assinaboine a week ago Saturday, it is a two days ride to get in, has only had a couple of half days when the sun shone and she starts ^{back to Banff} ~~not~~ day after tomorrow, and she is paying for it too, at least we are at home so it doesn't cost us except for food !

See I am hitting all the wrong keys this afternoon but I did want to write this before going for the mail. Got fooled this morning, wrote one letter that had to be answered right off and was just finishing it when a boy came to see us. He is getting married in 2 weeks to a girl who taught school here last year. He asked for Pete who was working in the dark room so I told him that, and by that time he had his shoes off so as not to mess up my kitchen floor, I tried to tell him it hadn't been really cleaned and waxed since spring but by then he was in the kitchen. Couldn't think of his name but hoped Pete might recognize his voice. He has been in Banff off and on and worked at the filling station for Cliff several years, comes from Toronto, he and a friend came out just after the war and liked the west so much they stayed working here in summer, Calgary in winter, a very nice boy and full of fun. So we talked and I had an idea he wanted to know if we would help him with something, so asked what he was doing, and he is getting married and working with a real estate firm, so asked about that and we talked and talked, how Calgary is growing, the skiing, the roads across Canada etc. Finally he asked again about Pete (and I still couldn't think of his name) so went to the darkroom door and asked Pete how soon he could come out, He came shortly and even then the boy was reluctant

to come to the point. We always feel that the ones who are good risks ask for what they want right away and don't take your time, Marvin (for that is his name) said finally with a bit of urging, that he had a chance to buy some property in Calgary etc. etc. We of course have no idea of speculating in real estate but it sure used up a lot of my morning!

Yesterday was Saturday and dull with the clouds low on the mountain. we were busy around the house and also a lot of people to see and odd errands to do which takes time, Nellie MacKenzie came for a short call, She has rented her big house for the winter, had it rented for such a fat sum this summer she could afford to go abroad with the 2 youngest kids, She wants to try living in Edmonton, has a job and has gone up today to try and find an apartment for the winter, has lots of friends there, If she doesn't like it she can come back here. It is hard for her to know.

Friday think I wrote you, we were out looking for places to paint but it was so gray and flat we didn't find anything that seemed very paintable so didn't do any sketching, surely soon we will have a bit of sunny weather, we shouldn't complain for the poor farmers are having a terrible time trying to get crops in.

This isn't much of a letter, can't think of any news, Oh yes, the other day when we were getting the Jeep out of the garage three little bear cubs, very round and roly polly looking came through from the back. Each is a different color, black, brown and almost cream colored, a very pale shade, The mother became ugly and had to be shot but the 3 cubs seem fine, They ran around the house and were gone before I could catch up and get a picture for you.

Must go and get the mail so Loads of love from us both to you and all.

Catharine,

Banff, Alberta.

Tuesday Sept. 22, 1959

Dearest Mother,

It just started to clear while we were having lunch so are going out this afternoon, to sketch if we can and perhaps take a few pictures, Pete is changing into his Blue Jeans, I am all ready and then we are off, just had one Indian, and Vern Castella to get some leaf mold for his house plants. without further delay we can leave.

We went on quite a jaunt last night. " My Fair Lady " is on at the Auditorium in Calgary for a week, and Pete was anxious to see it, especially after hearing the music on a Hi Fi at the ranch in Cowley.

Harold said he would pick up tickets if he could in Calgary last Wednesday, most people had written in for theirs when they went on sale a couple of months ago, but we didn't know then whether we would want to go or what night. Should have gotten 2 anyway & then either swapped them later or given them away -

Anyway all Harold could get were 2 in the 2nd Balcony at the back but at least they were centre & as Harold wrote. they sat in the same vicinity in the Auditorium in Edmonton & they were OK. & he was sure we would really enjoy the Show.

We decided not to include shopping or try to spend the night in Calgary but see how it worked driving down & back just for the performance. It is about 80 miles one way but with the new Trans-Canada takes about an hour & a half to outskirts of Calgary.

I put up a few chicken sandwiches and made 2 thermos of tea and we left here at 5.30, it was a lovely evening to drive down for the light effects and heavy clouds were most interesting. No wind and we were sure it would be a frosty night as it seemed to be clear in the west, As we drove out of the mountains the sun hit a hillside miles beyond and with the autumn color it was ~~almost~~ almost rose color. The rain clouds were heavy over Calgary so we stopped before dark and ate out bite of supper before getting in to the city. Stopped for gas and then went right to the Big Auditorium which is on a hill overlooking the city. *(It rained later as we drove home but cleared as we entered the mountains half way up)*
 The Alberta Government built one for Edmonton and one just like it ~~in~~ *at* ~~the~~ *auditorium* for Calgary to celebrate the 50th. Anniversary of the Province in 1955 and we are all very proud of the result. They are the most modern Auditoriums of their kind anywhere and are designed a bit like the Jubilee Music Hall in London. the accoustics are the latest, Don't ask me how they work for they are something to do with Electronics. A man next to us was trying to explain the system to a girl and said the voices are all taped and then rebroadcast to various parts of the ~~building~~ orchestra and balconies so that they arrived the same time as the music, ~~at~~ *1/30th* of a second before they would if not taped. Anyway one can hear equally well all over the place.

The parking was as well handled as could be. It is a huge area all around the building, on 2 or 3 sides and marked off, we came in with a line of cars across an overpass of 14th. Ave. and boys with flashlights directed us which way to go, here and there, giving each person a chance to park before the next drove in beside them and each with a way to get out with out waiting for others to move first. either forwards or backwards.

We were amused for as we parked Pete spotted Sydney and Doris Vallance from Banff, so he called "Hello Syd." He was only a couple of steps away, he looked around, so Pete said jokingly "Hello Mr Vallance." Syd came

over and held out his hand and said, " Very nice to see you. " or something like that, evidently thinking it was a Calgary person, until he realized who it was when Pete laughed. " Why Pete, where in the world did you come from. " and he had to get Doris over, couldn't believe we had gone down to Calgary. After all we haven't been down since the first part of July before the Stampede. They had seats in the 2nd. row and ours were the very last row in the balcony. We wouldn't even see them later , but could see the orchestra pit

Everyone was gathering from all directions though it was more than half an hour before the musical was to start, no one hurried and really the building is wonderful for a crowd. Think it holds 2 thousand 5 hundred or more. They have a tremendous foyer with huge windows along one side which overlook the city of Calgary, the lights were very pretty and then broad staircases leading to the first balcony and another from there on up to the second balcony, each with huge carpeted lounges and one whole side glass with the lights of the city. A number of comfortable chairs, all very simple and in good taste too. It would make a lovely opera house, seems funny when one like it could be used so well in a big city like Boston, to have Calgary with just over 200,000 people now, have something so far ahead of anything in the east. It has made such a difference in getting good things to come here, like " My Fair Lady " for instance, it has been a week in Edmonton and will be a week here, and probably a good half of the audience had never seen a Musical Comedy before, except on T.V. or in the movies.

As we wended our way up I told Pete, row K, probably wasn't too far back, just the 11th. row in the balcony, but when we got there our backs were to the wall, in fact the thermostats were on the wall behind us. The air was fine the whole time, neither hot nor cold and never stuffy.

The show itself was really good and the company a very good one. Dorothy Whyte saw the original cast in New York, or one of the best

in 1957 and again this company in Vancouver and she thought this one every bit as good. The costumes were all new, had just been flown over from London and as with the first, designed by Cecil Beaton, so were clean and bright. Rather a relief to have lots of clothes on everybody and maybe that was one reason the dancing was so effective.

Harold had said "better take your field glasses" so I felt like a bird watcher with a pair of binoculars hung around my neck, didn't use them much as the effect was good. We couldn't see the facial expressions without the glasses but after all it wasn't a play as much as the music that counted and we have never seen more lively or better dancing. We really enjoyed it, and it was such fun to see and hear the audience so responsive. They even applauded the overtures to each act and when ~~the~~ curtain went up on the scenes of Ascot and the ball later, they applauded that. There wasn't a sound in that huge place when a quiet moment came and they all laughed at the good spots. It must have been fun for the actors.

We kept seeing Banff people and I guess an awful lot were down or are going. It was 20 to midnight when we got out of the building, a little slow leaving the top balcony, and then no one seemed in a hurry, most having their own transportation. It was fairly easy to get out of the city though not being used to the lights of cars and night driving we did notice the glaze of headlights. Got home at 1.30 A.M. which wasn't bad, ate the rest of the sandwiches and tea and went to bed. It was 8 hours in all but we figured it was well worth it, though I don't know we would do it very often. Though a lot of people think nothing of it to drive down for an evening of football or a show or hockey.

to
Better get ~~the~~ mail, our trip out ended when an east wind blew up and brought heavy rain showers and things changed so fast we couldn't do much of anything so came home.

Loads of love from us both.

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Sept. 24, 1959

Dearest Mother,

We had one nice day yesterday and it was really beautiful. but today is over cast and raining further west. However yesterday was so busy we mightn't have ~~done~~ ^{today} very well anyhow had we gone out sketching. But it would be nice to have a few days in a row for painting. Evidently in England, this summer ^{it} has been the driest on record, and in Norway we hear the crops have all burnt up so perhaps that is why our season has been so wet.

Anyway yesterday, Wednesday, dawned bright and clear, we were up early and just getting things together at nine when Albert Roberge of Edmonton came to see if we wanted to buy an old camera a friend of his wanted to sell. We talked about that and other photographic things and he stayed nearly an hour, so it was about 10 A.M. when we got away. Drove to Hillsdale and the trees were just lovely there, last year they didn't amount to anything in that district but yesterday they were really bright, the day was clear and except for a wind it felt like Indian Summer. We both sketched and Pete got a good one but mine was a flop, we ate our picnic lunch and then took a few photographs and started back. The game Warden Ed. Carlton came along in his truck on patrol and stopped to talk, We knew him by sight but never had really met him and he was very nice and interesting too, especially in the history of the district. We worked our way home stopping to take pictures, but found the color was at it's best where we had been painting.

Dorothy Whyte was due back from Assinaboine and we knew was to change her things at Mrs Purdy's before taking the 7 o'clock train to Calgary, but we thought we would change our things first and then check up on her. I was upstairs ready to put a skirt on and Pete ^{bring} the sketch boxes in when the Mighalls from Edmonton drove in, we hadn't seen Dennis and Sophie

for two years I guess and so ^{were} surprised. They had driven down, had one errand to do and so ~~said~~ Dennis said he would drop Sophie off about 7.30 or 8 o'clock and see Charlie Beil and be back for the evening. That would give us a chance to see Dorothy. So ~~as~~ it was nearly five we dashed round and got the groceries and the mail and milk before any places closed. Then checked on Dorothy. Found Mrs Purdy and sister had gone to Calgary to My Fair Lady on ^{an earlier} ~~the~~ train and she was alone. So she repacked and I went back for her at 5.30 while Pete washed the paint brushes, took her one place and brought her back here for tea, then we left her at the Mt. Royal ^{at 6.30} where Erling Strom was to pick up Jean Park and go to the station to see Dorothy off with her bags.

We had time to cook supper and get everything eaten and cleaned up before Sophie appeared and in between Edon Walls came for a minute with some papers. Dennis came about nine and they were here until nearly 11 PM. Quite a day!

So we were rather glad this morning to find that it was a dull day and we could take things a little easy, not that we have, for we thought as long as we had errands to do we might as well see Jean Park off on the train West at 10 o'clock, but it was half an hour late, so did errands etc. and went back as the Morants drove up to the station, also to say goodbye to Jean, and then Erling appeared with Jean and her bags. She was on the end car and such a long train we had to walk miles down the platform, everyone helping to carry things and joking as we went. Pete went slower a few paces behind and so he had the fun of overhearing remarks. A couple of old country people, English I guess, saw us pass and remarked, "Must be a bunch of Americans." Which amused Pete. Erling is Norwegian, Jean Scotch, the Morants very Canadian and I the only American! Nick had one suitcase and so helped an elderly couple with theirs down the platform. We finally got to the end and said goodbye, found 2 English

ladies ^{who just got off} with 4 bags and no one to help, so Nick took a couple and Pete 2 and we helped them up to the station. They didn't have much money so wanted to know a place to stay. I went into the station and telephoned the Wards but they had dismantled the rooms they rent, so we all headed for the Homestead ^{Hotel}. We took the baggage, the Morants the 2 ladies, and Nick is the kind who jokes a lot so he was ordering Pete around as much as possible. "My good man, take this bag, hurry up now" and things like that. The poor ladies didn't know what to make of it all. Got to the Homestead and Found it closed for the season. So then we drove to Mrs Lewthwaite's and I was elected to enquire there. We finally found a cabin where the ladies could cook their meals and they were very pleased, but by the time we got home it was quarter to twelve!

Not long ~~after~~ after lunch Syd Vallance came along to see how we liked My Fair Lady. They just loved it and he stayed until 3.30 ^{pm} so we have had a cup of tea and I must write a few other letters if I can.

Am glad you are feeling better than you were. Cousin Alma wrote that Dorothy Browne ^{had been} ~~was~~ there, and we were so glad to hear she had gone east to see you and stayed with Frances. Wonder did she go to Mally's wedding? do hope so.

Must end this, so loads of love from us both ~~for~~ you all.

Catherine,
what a lot of mistakes. because I hurried.

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Sept. 25, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Another nice letter from you today, a little shorter than most and we are sorry you feel that you aren't feeling well, for by the fine letters you write we had an idea you were feeling pretty good. We too got Judy Palmers wedding invitation, wish you could go and then tell us all about the Quaker Service. Maybe you could, as Cambridge isn't very far and you could come right back afterwards. I see the reception is in the Meeting house afterwards so no doubt you could take in both. It wouldn't be as large an affair as Gale's wedding so shouldn't be as tiring and Hanne could go with you. Why not some day soon see if you could stand a drive to Cambridge and back and then the wedding would of course be extra. Bet you could do it alright if you really wanted to.

We had a really nice afternoon today, a few clouds but quite wonderful storm effects. It had rained this morning so we were all set to either entertain the 2 English ladies or go and see the Phillips but after lunch the sun came out a couple of times between showers and when there was an extra big patch of blue sky we got things together and headed west on the new road to see how the color was there, took a couple of pictures and came back the old road. The cloud effects were lovely, it was snowing up high, raining in some valleys and sunny other parts. Finally a tremendous cloud seemed to block out everything towards Lake Louise and we came back, it followed us all the way but later after we were home I noticed it cleared again about 5 o'clock. We sort of hope it will be nice in the morning but the radio talks of a new disturbance from somewhere to bring more showers. It is such a lovely time of year but you need sun to make the trees look

the ~~the~~ best. Some are still green but a good many are yellow, the aspens are especially lovely this year, as someone said the leaves look like gold dollars sparkling in the sun. They are such a clear bright yellow.

You know it is only a little over 2 months since we were in Concord so don't expect me for a visit yet. It would make the winter seem much longer if I should fly east too soon in the fall.

It is bedtime already, Pete has been mixing all the chemicals for developing colour film, He has several to do, about a dozen $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in size and wants to see if he is exposing them right. We may do them to - morrow night.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Thanks for letting us read the cards -

Banff, Alberta.
Sunday night.
Sept. 27, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Your last letter came very fast. You posted it one day, it travelled the next and reached us the ~~max~~ 2nd. Morning. Really just 2 days en route. It all depends on the connections I guess. Often a letter from Miss Burditt comes that quick from Boston, but one from Miss Publicover the other day took 3 days to reach us. This won't be posted until tomorrow morning and then may not go until evening on the afternoon train. but there are Mail trucks to Calgary 3 times a week which would make it faster, only I can never remember the days they go!

It hasn't been very good weather this weekend, we did go out yesterday but the light wasn't too good, the clouds came from east and west and couldn't decide what to do, In the middle it was rather overcast. no good for pictures. In the evening we developd some color film as Pete wanted to know how the pictures he has taken of the colored trees was turning out. They were quite good.

Today we couldn't decide what to do, there were heavy clouds and a few patches of sunlight, so each time we looked outdoors it was different, finally a caller decided things for us. "Hutch" who was at one time Superintendent of the Banff Park, Later head of all parks, came to see us, He is now retired and lost his wife a year ago, so doesn't quite know where to settle. We had a nice visit and it was nearly lunch time when he left. Then before we could start out, Nellie MacKenzie came, had the slides she had taken in Europe last summer, also the ones of her daughter's wedding in Edinburgh, so we looked at those and she told us her plans. She was in Edmonton last week and found a 4 room apartment, she had hoped for

3 bedrooms but couldn't find anything as large that would suit, then she also was interviewed for a job. She had applied last spring and spoken to someone but got a better job than she expected. As ^{supervisor} ~~superintendent~~ of the Provincial Lab. in Edmonton with 10 girls under her, the person in charge now will be there for another 2 months until she gets familiar with the job. Billy the eldest boy goes to University and the 2 youngest are still in school.

After she left about 2.30 we decided it was sunny enough to go out. but found the sun didn't really shine enough for photographs though the storm affects were quite spectacular. Big clouds sweeping across and the color getting lovely nearer Banff. We found the trees ~~were~~ painted last week have lost their leaves, some all of them, so will have to sketch in a different spot for color. It is sad to see the wind take the leaves in droves. They scatter like yellow snow.

Have some clippings for you, will try to find them to send in this.

Loads of love from us both.

Catharine.

Banff, Alberta.
Tuesday night
Sept. 29, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Well another overcast day, however we can't really complain for yesterday was extra nice. but it is funny not to have 2 days nice in succession, or so it seems. Sunday was quite stormy looking though we did go out in the afternoon and got a few wonderful effects, But yesterday started overcast and we were overtown doing errands when it started lifting and by 1³⁰ A.M. was clear and lovely. We had had a light breakfast so decided to make a very early lunch as we had a nice bit of steak left over, so we ate about 11 A.M. and then went up the old west road 8 miles where we knew from the day before the color was nice. It was just perfect, beautiful trees and good light. We usually try to make a sketch first and then photograph, so we did that and as it looked like good weather for a day or two I drew one in carefully to work on again next day. Pete finished his clump of trees but didn't try to do the mountains carefully as there is never time to do both and he knew the mountains were there long ago and would still be there for years to come. Then we started taking pictures, after a cup of tea about 3 PM. and drove west further, but by then the clouds had come over and we had to wait for + sun. This morning it was all overcast again and though we hoped it would clear it never had. This afternoon we even had a snow squall.

The Morants who take more photographs than we do and sell them to magazines and for covers and calenders too, thought at 9 A.M. yesterday that it was going to be a poor day and went to Calgary. They are really kicking themselves for missing the one good day in a week. but that is the way it goes.

Last evening Dorothy Wardle came to ask us to tea today or any day this week. Thinking it would be nice today we said we would come if the weather was poor, which of course it was, and Pete was a bit annoyed when we

really couldn't get out of it. They are old friends who live in Ottawa most of the year. Jim Wardle is the real friend but he has gone back, however we feel a bit sorry for the daughter who is younger than we are but who is rather dominated by the mother, a great talker. So anyway we went and had a pleasant time, for they are interesting to talk to, but just one more thing to be done. Then Nellie MacKenzie came down to say goodbye as she is off to Edmonton tomorrow.

Wednesday. It really felt cold this morning and was dull with low clouds, However about 10 A.M. it began to clear and we went out to try and get some pictures, but a miserable cloud seemed to stay in one place for ages so we didn't really do very well. Had an early lunch and by the time we got out again there was hardly a cloud in the sky! We went about 8 miles where we knew the color had been bright but the trees that were fine a few days ago have blown off and some turned brown so in the end we just took pictures and will try to develop them tonight, so as it is after five and supper to get I will end this and run over to the mail.

Thanks for the letter today, we are so sorry that you find life so dull and we know your friends do their best going to see you as often as they can. Don't know what to suggest, unless you do something that makes you tired and perhaps you will sleep longer, or doesn't it work that way.

Lots of love from us both and to all.

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Night.
October 3, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Two perfectly lovely days and so little time for writing letters to you or anyone else, and I have several business ones I should get away, However it clouded up this evening and the wind has gone round to the east and it looks like rain, one of those " disturbances from the Pacific " or " Cold air from the Artic."

Thursday was overcast in the morning and I thought a good day for getting things done. We went over town about 10 to do the errands and get the mail but had no sooner come back than Syd Vallance dropped in. He said he didn't want to interrupt us for he was really just killing time, had to wait for the bread to arrive at the store and so came around here, We just love having him come for he is great fun and always interesting to talk to, and we had the recent color pictures to show him and a new camera combination Pete had devised and a few questions. He also said that Doris, his wife, was making pickles and the most awful smell so he had told her he was going out. It was almost lunch time when he left!

Then just after lunch we got a wire from Jasper Kerr who lives in England and is visiting an uncle in Toronto and could come out to Banff by plane if we would be here, so ofcourse we wired " delighted. " He had quite a War Record, had just become a young lawyer when the War started and went through Dunquerque (can't spell it tonight.) Was in the British Army and one of the last off the beaches, I forget how many hours they stood in water up to their waists waiting to be taken off. After that he captured a German pilot who crashed somewhere in England, then he was taken prisoner I guess in Africa and in Italy in a prisoner of War camp. Escaped when the Allies advanced but though he and a few others were in hiding for ten days it wasn't quite long enough

to be rescued by the British or Americans and ~~they~~^{an} had to surrender. ~~He~~^{starve}
developed T.B. and was ~~an~~ exchanged prisoner and spent months in a hospital
in Wales. We haven't seen him since the early 1920's but his mother is also
an old friend, living now in Yorkshire. She used to run a Bungalow Camp
near Banff each summer years ago. I first ~~knew~~ Jasper in 1929. He arrived
Monday evening for a few days.

Thursday We went over to send him a wire about 2.30 and could see then a
tiny bit of blue sky under the clouds in the west. I thought it might clear
but Pete reminded me it was probably the other side of the Great divide in B. C.
X Hardly likely to clear here very soon. We did ~~some~~ errands and ran into the
Walter Phillips. Had been meaning to go up and see how he was getting on as
we had been told it was very discouraging for him and he was quite despondent.
He has Glaucoma and then had a cataract removed. We think he isn't quite patient
enough for the operation was supposed to be successful and we know it takes lots
of time, as Pete's did, to get so you can see well enough for painting. He is the
one who did the watercolor of the deer at the back of his house in the woods
that we gave you. is ~~in~~^{you} the stairs, or at the foot of them in Concord.

He was glad to come round for tea and Mrs Phillips wanted to do a few
errands over town so said she would walk down later. We had a nice time and he
joked and laughed and seemed fine with us. We didn't ask how his eyes were but
just asked about things and he liked the ~~light~~^{we} bright autumn sketches ~~were~~
doing. Then we had tea when Mrs Phillips arrived. But she is quite a talker and
poor Walter hardly said anything after she came, and we think possibly that is
why people get the idea he is in poor spirits! If you ask him something, she
is most apt to do all the answering. While they were here the sun came out
bright, and it cleared off by the time Pete drove them home but it was too late
X by then for us to go out.

Sunday- We had snow last night, about an inch and it has been over cast and very drippy off the trees and sloppy underfoot today so we haven't gone out. Sun has been out a little but hardly enough. Had one of the game Wardens down this A.M. talking cameras etc. Pete Tasker who used to be at Bow Lake

Friday and Saturday we were out both days sketching and it was really lovely. We went early and took our lunch and then after making a sketch would take pictures, Yesterday the clouds came over and finally there were more clouds than blue sky and we were home by 3 o'clock. But there are always lots of things to be done, the milk to get, the mail, the groceries for the weekend and then you meet people to converse with etc.

Another nice letter from you. Do feel sorry that the Concord Station is no more, seems as if it could have been used for something but after all it would have to be heated and was pretty run down. What kind of Grocery is it? a Super Market? or just a big store perhaps, and what about people taking the trains, so few stop now-a-days I expect. Would think a really good bus service would be better for commuters.

How did Rusty make out in New York? He wrote that he was to go for an interview, so hope he will get a job he likes. Think once he starts a real job he will do very well with it.

Must get on to some other letters so Loads of love from us both.

Catherine.

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Oct. 6, 1959

Dearest Mother,

It is trying to snow and a few flakes in the air, an east or north wind blowing and the bright yellow leaves are blowing off the balm-of-Gilead trees. Very pretty but rather sad to see them go. The Ground is carpeted with them, so thick they cover the bright green grass and the driveway, but we know only too well what the unusually heavy crop of leaves mean, much raking later on. Was about 25° above this morning and even now about 3 PM there are tiny icicles hanging from the shed roof and it is barely 32°. However we are really lucky for in Saskatoon in some places they had 16 inches of snow and 10 inches in Camrose, Alberta yesterday. Of course we are always hopeful that after a good storm we will get "real Indian Summer." We were fortunate to have a good many perfect days this fall for sketching but the color will be gone by the time this cold weather and dampness is over.

Had a very busy day yesterday, it was snowing most all day but warm enough to melt the inch or two of snow on the ground, very sippy sloppy just the same. I was going to clean up the house but first Don Harman came to ask Pete to copy a picture for him, and then Sam Ward who hasn't found us in for a week or so, then errands and lunchtime.

In the afternoon we had a funeral to go to at 2 PM and on the way heard of the death that morning of another Banff Oldtimer, they always seem to come in 3s in Banff, a lad was killed by a truck the week before. At the funeral or rather the burial we met Pearl Moore as she always goes to the cemetery instead of the church as we are apt to do, and she was sort of lonely and cold so we asked her for a cup of tea afterwards. Jasper Kerr was due in the evening and we told her about his coming. We had a good

visit and talk of many things and she had barely gone when the Morants came to show us a colour picture they had taken and which was just back from being processed in Vancouver. Pete showed Nick ours and I got tea, was a little surprised they finished a plate of muffins so quickly until Willi said she just realized they hadn't had lunch! So they ate a good tea and before they left Ted Goodall came in. He is the one who called on us at one night this summer at 9.30 PM and we told him we were just on our way up to bed, which was true, so I could hardly put him off again. In he came, drank tea and didn't take any hints until we made it very pointed that we had to do a bit of shopping for a friend coming that night on the bus. We had time to go out just before 6 o'clock and get milk and a few things that we would have picked up after the funeral had Pearl not come down. Then we just had time for our supper and to meet Jasper on the bus that comes in about 8 O'CLOCK

Took him to the Mt. Royal where we had a room for him, and then brought him over here for bacon and eggs. It was awfully good to see him again and he really hadn't changed much in the 27 years since we last saw him. We write each other at Christmas and a couple of times during the year as a rule and have been good friends. He stayed until about 10 PM but having left Toronto that morning and spent an afternoon in Calgary and ridden up on the bus he was tired.

This morning he came around about 11 A.M and we took him to Pearls and he had lunch with her at the Mt. Royal and then they were to watch the Baseball on T.V. this afternoon, it is miserable out and may be tomorrow, but he has until Saturday here so should get one good day to see the mountains.

Just remembered I have some meat for soup so better start that and Pete is doing the copy photographs he promised Don Harman he would make, and then I have a couple more letters to write.

Had a nice one from Cousin Alma yesterday, too bad they have to

He does
daughters of
B.C. for
Loudon news

move but perhaps they will get a nicer place and not enough room for too big a garden. Would be fun if Cousin Bert could have a good window or tiny greenhouse for growing plants. Wonder if they could get a bit of land and build a tiny house, easy to look after. I would be glad to help if they could, for I don't suppose they could really afford to build with the high prices these days.

Must start the stew. Have some clippings to enclose but goodness knows where they are, You would be shocked if you saw the way the things are on my desk and most tables.

Loads of love,

Catharine .

Calgary, Alberta.
Thurs. Oct. 8. 1959

Dearest Mother,

Still cold & snow. Most discouraging weather & we feel so sorry to think Jasper Kerr is here this week & can hardly see a mountain. He used to be here years ago every summer with his mother who ran one of the Canadian Pacific Bungalow Camps. Think it is a good 25 years since he last saw Calgary. However he finds it nice & quiet & has slept well. Better than for some time & seen a number of old friends. Met a few new ones.

Worse part I caught a good head cold. First I've had for ages. 2 or 3 years I guess & this weather doesn't help any. So we haven't been able to do much for him. He drops around each morning about 10 o'clock. Tuesday we took him down to Pearl Moore's. They had lunch together then up to Ednie's (her daughters) & watched the World Series on T.V. Though Jasper said they talked so much no one looked very often! We did some photographs that evening & other things.

Then yesterday as it was raining out & snowing a bit (though the sun did come out a few times) I never went out.

Jasper was over in the morning & looked at pictures & the house. Had lunch I think with Pearl & she took him up to the camp his mother used to run. Luckily the deer was out while they were there.

In the meantime the Morants dropped in to see us, had a lot of old framed photographs that the Bayff Springs Hotel used to have in bedrooms but they are out of date & being thrown out, Nick had 10 or more & some were the Swiss Guides. Indians & one strangely enough was of the Bungalow camp & Jasper's mother, Lucy Kerr sitting on the porch of one of the cabins.

We had tea & while the Morants were in the midst of it, back came Pearl & Jasper. So we had a very jolly time with much kidding too.

Today we haven't done much, at least I haven't. Jasper was over & Pete talked with him & this afternoon Pete Tasker with some film for Pete.

It is still snowing. Has hardly gotten higher than 32° for 5 days - but we are lucky. North near Jasper they have 2 feet of snow & east near Brandon Manitoba 18 inches. 2 years ago at this time was lovely warm.

A nice letter from you yesterday - Wish we had Mercelia to help us clean our desk. to bring order out of chaos - This would have been ideal weather for sorting & looking over things but either too many callers or haven't felt like it.

The lovely yellow aspen at the back of our house was bright & clean looking the other day & now has turned brown & dirty looking. The mother deer with twin fawns has been living in the long grass. The magpies trying to land on their backs to get bugs or fleas out of the fur. The little ones don't like it & shake the big birds off. First real cold & snow the baby deer & baby magpies have seen & the young birds kept trying to get on the windowsills & look inside the house.

We are listening to the British Election. on short wave as the lines are down east of us & so we can't get it on our regular radio.

Loads of love from us both.

Caltharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Oct. 10, 1959

Dearest Mother,

At last it seems to have cleared and are we glad! a whole week with snow in the air most every day, cold and damp and really miserable with the wind from the northeast. It still seems to be from that direction unless the weathervane had frozen, but the snow was blowing off the top of Rundle Mountain from the west, and right now at 5 o'clock the sun is shining brightly. A few inches of fresh snow on the ground, maybe just one inch for the yellow leaves that have fallen are poking through and one lovely tree in Barbara's year has turned a little and is a beautiful deep golden yellow the lower part a rich yellow green. In a way the few trees with leaves left on are very handsome and rich shades of yellow and orange, different from the usually bright yellow we associate with the fall here. Colors I don't often care for but tonight they seem very beautiful, perhaps it is the snow and color of the snowy mountains which adds to it. We have just been for a ride up the west road. Had to go to the station and as it suddenly started to clear we decided to drive up a few miles, It was lovely and we saw a huge flock of sheep, enjoying the new fresh green grass the government has planted along the banks of the Trans Canada, and farther was another large group of animals, about 6 great big Elk with lovely spreads of antlers and a lot of females and young bucks, of course we never thought of taking the cameras out this afternoon when we went to the express!

Yesterday Jasper left in the afternoon on The Canadian and it was cold and miserable, snow blowing from the east. He had been over in the morning and we cooked him a steak for lunch with mushrooms and baked sweet potatoes which I guess he hasn't had for ages, Don't think they have them much in England, he had 2, and the last peaches of the season.

It was nice seeing him again but we find when there is some friend like that in Banff we can't help but have them on our minds and this time my having a cold did make it a little more difficult. We also noticed the smoke from the cigarettes more than usual. Today we felt more relaxed, Have a lot of cleaning up and tidying up to do and doubt if we have a chance before Jim Orr arrives on Friday for two days. If it is nice we shall go out and take advantage of the fine weather, Guess Jim Orr won't notice dust under the rug or how clean the kitchen shelves are!

Monday is the Canadian Thanksgiving, the last big weekend before Christmas. They have it early so people can enjoy a last long weekend in the fall. Hope it is nice, some places will have too much snow. Barbara came from Medicine Hat today and Jon arrived on the bus tonight from Edmonton. When we came back from the errands after lunch she was just leaving the back door so came in for an hour or more. Said she would be over with Jon this evening but after all the visitors we have had I just told her we were going to be working in the dark room tonight and would see them tomorrow. We knew that if they came it would be another late evening. That's our trouble, not being able to make excuses!

No mail from Concord today so perhaps will have better luck tomorrow. With all the snow east of here it may have been delayed.

Should have posted this today but will get it off tomorrow.

Loads of love from us both.

Catharine

P.S. Sunday. It says more snow today from the west, A cold wind & overcast this morning. My cold is almost gone but with this weather it is hard to get rid of it completely. We are hoping for Indian Summer.

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Oct. 11, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Am not quite sure what day of the month it is but anyway it is Monday and the Canadian Thanksgiving. Hasn't been a very good long weekend for most people on account of so much snow in some places, but today has been lovely here and a bit warmer than last week, up to 40° above and last year at this time it was 71° in Calgary.

No mail came yesterday as the trains had been delayed by the 2 feet of snow in Brandon and parts of Manitoba (the day before I guess) so this morning there was a lot, one from Hanne and another from Mercelia, we were so sorry to hear that you hadn't been feeling well and hope by now you are all over whatever it was that troubled you. Believe that Rusty was to be there during the weekend and if you felt up to it, Cousin Jane for a few days. So do hope by the time they came you felt your "usual self" as Jean would say. It was good of them to write, for we had been wondering when no letters came from you in several days. *How you were,*

Think it was the last one you wrote us that you asked if you had sent a picture of a chair that Cousin Jane sent you. You didn't send the picture and we thought you must have meant some interesting antique chair, but now from what Hanne said, it must be a new chair that you find convenient to use. She said you seemed real pleased with it anyway.

In a way we had good news today, Jim Orr who was coming this next weekend, the 16th (which is Friday afternoon until Sunday morning) has decided to postpone his visit as he doesn't have to go to Los Angeles at this time. We enjoy having him but both Pete and I, without saying anything to one another had been thinking of all the things we should do if he were coming and if he weren't we wouldn't have to do any of them until we had more time

Pete had been looking at the workshop, the camping things that we may use again but otherwise should put away before company comes, the mess of tools, the messed up studio, the leaves to rake etc. while I glanced at the silver not shined since spring, the dust on the ^{high} cupboards shelves seen by tall visitors who insist on helping wipe dishes, the kitchen floor that should be washed and waxed. The books returned recently that should be put back in their places, now on the living room table, the larkspur to be cut down but we would leave a few days longer to make the outside of the house look less bare, and endless other things. If the weather is nice we will want to be out and we just might get a few good days yet in October. Also we can postpone thinking of business things.

Had a rather quiet weekend after Jasper Kerr left on Friday. that was a miserable day, snow and cold, Saturday there was lots to do, errands and food to get in for the long weekend. Barbara came in the afternoon just as we were returning from over town and sat and talked for nearly 2 hours it seemed, she had just had tea with Mrs Shaw ^{who's} living in her house ^{here} this winter, and so didn't want anything. Pete finally went and did some things with the camera but she won't be coming again and she looked so tired, in fact I've never seen her look old before. She teaches Grade 9 which is strenuous and had driven from Medicine Hat alone in her little Volkswagen, leaving at 6 A.M and getting here at noon, it is about 250 miles I think. She expected Jon that night on the bus and said they would be over, but I just told her we were going to do some photographs after supper and would see them next day. Then instead of that we snuck upstairs and read in the studio all evening and turned in early, for we knew if they got comfortably settled in our front room at 8.30 ^{PM} it would be 11 or 12 o'clock before any of us would retire.

This cold germ we have picked up is a queer kind of thing, for it doesn't make you real sick but seems to back up in ones nose and the weather has been poor for getting rid of it, We aren't used to being in the house so much or having so many cigarette smokers around and Barbara smokes a lot more than she used to and it all stuffed me up again.

Yesterday was Sunday, still overcast and some light snow, so we stayed home to try and get rid of the cold. Decided what to say if anyone came and except for seeing Jon we would have photographs or something to do. If someone came at tea time we would say we were so sorry we had to go out. We never get prepared with excuses and so rarely make them. So we were all set. started a very early dinner about noon or before and were just cooking it when Barbara came along with Tuppy the dog to tell us that Jon had never come after all ! She had just finished a late breakfast, looked more rested than the day before, so didn't want lunch, but would just sit with us while we had ours. There was nothing we could do and we felt sorry for Barbara who had looked forward so to hearing about University from Jon. Don't know what happened, maybe he didn't catch the bus from Edmonton. Barbara is interesting to talk to and we heard all about her classes etc. but she did smoke quite a bit and we both noticed it later and she stayed until about 2.30 when I went for the mail. So today when it was sunny at last we took off after lunch and drove up to Lake Louise and back. Nearly all the leaves are gone, just the stray one left.

Didn't mean to write so much tonight for there are other letters I should get off. Do tell us about Rusty and what he had to say about his job? Expect he will be too busy to write us for ages. Wonder how he likes it ? Can think of no end of questions. Also how is Gale and do they get out much to Concord. Expect they too are busy getting settled.

Hope you feel much better and do give our love to Cousin Jane, I haven't written her all summer. How the time flies.

Loads of love from us both,

Catharine

Calgary, Alberta
Thurs. Oct 15, 1959.

Dearest Mother,

We feel so sorry to think you haven't felt "up to scratch" lately but hope you are better now. This morning we had such a nice letter from Mercelia written after Sunday & now this afternoon a lovely one from Elaine posted Tuesday morning the 13th & we got it this afternoon - Thurs the 15th just 2 days seems very quick. Please thank them for writing.

How nice that Rusty could be with you. Now he has a job I expect he will be pretty busy. He must enjoy it for he is such a good worker - and willing to take responsibility too.

We have been out getting a few pictures. The weather reports mislead us for they said rain this afternoon so when it was sunny & bright this

morning we went out fairly early. It was really beautiful for the light was so clear & long shadows. We saw a moose & some ducks - they were near a beaver dam, so we went up the road to turn, & got the camera all set & I drove so Pete could be on the right side to snap them. The minute we stopped the car they flew up but by waiting quietly they came slowly back to the pond & were floating towards the beaver dam where Pete was all set to take a picture of them, when a man came along the road & off they went for good! So no chance to snap them -

So we came back for lunch & this time got the telephoto lens all ready for the moose, ducks or sheep. & never laid eyes on another animal all afternoon. It's rather cloudy too but hasn't rained -

Will write again soon -

Loads of love always. Catherine.

Barry, Alberta
Fri. Oct. 16, 1959

Dearest Mother

This was the 2nd nice day in the last 2 weeks & we made the most of it! Quite frosty at breakfast time, about 24° above but after a few errands we took a lunch & drove up nearly to Lake Louise. There was still frost in shady places along the road & ice on the little ponds or swampy places. We turned off onto the old road near Lake Louise where we had each started a sketch some time ago & the weather changed before we had finished. So we worked on those - saved drawing in the subject. Had our lunch first & in the sun it felt nice & warm. But must have been about 32° in the shade.

When lovely clouds came over & changed things we headed back - got home about 3:30. It's nice on the old main road - just one car drove by all the time we were there - over 2 hours

Not too many cars on the new Trans-Canada highway which is wide & fairly straight & wide views of the mountains. The trees close in on the old road.

Do hope you are feeling better & getting your strength back. Mercelia said there was little color this year, perhaps too much heat last summer. She also said your garden is still lovely.

Did you ever hear about Judy's (Palmer) wedding? Perhaps when Edith has fully recovered she will be out to tell you the details.

Mercelia also told us about her trip to Plymouth. Must have been a very lively outing.

Am getting sleepy, from the fresh air I expect but wanted to have this ready to mail in the morning.

Lots of love from us both.

Catharine.

Bayff, Alta.
Sun Oct 17, 1959

Dearest Mother

'Am sitting in the sun while Pete finishes his sketch & then we will go home & cook a steak for dinner. Probably - (if no company appears) will leave this afternoon - It is perfect "Indian Summer" today though the weather bureau forecasts snow starting this afternoon. Hope they aren't any more accurate than usual. Right now there is a cool N W wind but the sun is so hot we had to just take off a sweater, then a jacket -

Yesterday we were out all day & it was good to find Cousin Alma's letter on our return saying that when she saw you that day you were looking better. She said there was a horrid virus going around - made one sick to their stomach etc. With the sun the last few days we both got rid of our "bugs" which seemed to be just in one's head. So glad they have a house. Do you know it?

Yesterday was a most wonderful day. We had arranged with Pete Tasker, our game warden friend who used to be at Bow Lake. to go up one of the Warden roads to Cuthead's Windy Camp on the Panther River. Country we had heard a lot about but never been in. The gate is kept locked & only people with special permission can go. It isn't far from Banff. You start out near Lake Minnewanka & drive up the Cascade River, then over 2 summits the Begmore & Stony Snowy Creek Summit crossing the valley of the Panther River.

Most people reached it years ago for hunting from the foothills so it was great fun for us to see it having heard about it from people like Carl Ringius who hunted & sketched big game on the Panther River.

We left about 9 AM & got home at 4.30.

No time to write more. Got home about 1 o'clock today & Gray Campbell was here between trains. Just saw him away now.
Loads of love
Pete - Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Tues. Oct. 20, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Just a hurried note as I am going over to catch an early mail (goes by truck to Calgary in Am. 3 times a week) We are very busy. Sunday turned out to be quite a day for us. We were up early and out sketching by 9.30 or 10 and didn't get home until one. a lovely day, clear and a warm sun. thought to rake leaves etc. in Pm. but found a note on the door that Gray Campbell had come in on morning train and was with Eldon Walls but going out on afternoon Canadian west, We cooked steak etc. and were in the midst of it when Eldon brought Gray back down, had a nice visit and took Gray to the train. He is the one who lived on the ranch near Cowley, which they have just sold and he has moved to Vancouver Island with his wife and 4 children and is going to write *books & a weekly column for newspaper* - so we were anxious to hear all about it. Saw him off on the train and came home to do the dishes which we finished about 3. 30 and I said to Pete " Now it is just time for tea!" as we had been going steady all day, when a Mr Henry Mock of the Canadian Bank of Commerce called. He is a Chinese from HongKong now with the bank and we had had a letter about him but thought we had missed him, He came for over an hour and we had tea. He was very interesting and we enjoyed meeting him, Then after an early supper we spent the evening developing film, quite a day.

Yesterday the clouds were low and it is dull and cold and this morning a freezing rain. Sam Ward came down and said that Asmund was also free so we decided to get some things done in the house that we had planned to do in the spring. They both came in the afternoon and cut a new doorway through

and are going to do some shelves etc for us, ,lots of hammering going on now.

Do hope you are feeling really better, last reports have been better but expect it will take time for you to get your strength back. Must run but will write you about the lovely trip we made last Saturday.

Loads of love,

from us both
Catherine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. Oct. 21, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Hope this reaches you by Saturday morning for have just received the nice letter of Mercelia's written while she was sitting with you and Hanne Saturday afternoon the 17th. Was glad to hear you could be in your sitting room again, must be hard to get your strength back after being in bed as long as you have, but if you take it easy and eat as much food as you can you should gradually feel stronger, and by the time we come for our next visit you will be going up and down stairs again.

Don't forget if you want to go downstairs before you are really strong enough to feel like climbing back up, you could get one of those lifts. A friend of ours told us this summer how wonderful they were, you just sit on the thing, press a button and away you go up or down, Hanne could run behind and see you didn't fall off, it is quite an idea just the same.

Intended to tell you all about our trip on Saturday but Colin Wyatt just dropped in, and it took a good part of the morning. He appeared yesterday just as we were going to have tea with Sam Ward and Asmund Oyestøl who are doing some carpentry for us. Colin is English and quite an adventurer, a great skier and has travelled all over the world in out of the way places. spent a month in Nepal and lived with the natives, one village at a 15 thousand foot elevation. He has written books and lectures now in the U.S. His wife and young daughter lives here, she is from Columbia and they separated for a time, he is back trying to be reconciled and it is a little hard knowing what to say and be friends of both. so we try not to enter in to things at all. He is to be around for a week and we had an idea he might drop in quite often so were a little relieved to find he was leaving for Calgary at 11 this morning. Has just left.

Pete is having the snow tires put on the Jeep this morning, so if we do get a sudden storm he will be all prepared. So many little things like that to do. Mrs Simpson was over early with word that Carl Rungius had just died in New York. He hasn't been well for several years and kept having little strokes and would black out periodically or else forget where he was and they were so afraid something would happen in a big city like New York. A friend arranged with the elevator boys that one of them would follow him when he went out, and I guess Carl never realized that he was being watched, they would be handy when he wanted to know his way. The sad part was that he kept on painting and was working over his older canvases and making them worse all the time, but he was a wonderful man just the same. *He lived all alone in an apartment.*

Pete will be back soon and then we have a few errands to do, it seems warmer today so will have to try a bit of raking this afternoon.

We will be glad when you feel like writing again for nice as it is to get letters from Hanne and Mercelia it is even better when we get one from you, no matter how short and we miss not hearing. *but don't write until you feel*

like it, Loads of love from us both *to you all -*
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Fri. Oct. 23, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Since you haven't been writing much lately it seems a long time getting news of how you are so it was certainly nice to hear your voice on the phone this morning. Helga was so clear when she answered I couldn't believe I was talking to someone in Concord.

X We have had Sam Ward and Asmund working in the house since Monday afternoon, changing things round downstairs. Put a new door into the downstairs toilet so that it comes out on the landing to the cellar stairs, and now if Pete is in the darkroom and wants to get upstairs to the studio without anyone in the kitchen noticing him, he can go through from either the darkroom or workshop into the toilet and out the 2nd door and up the back stairs to the studio. We are putting in some doors and a curtain to hide the rest of the house when we want to. But one thing leads to another, it was a chance to change one of the heating ducts into the darkroom and toilet so we got the furnace man down, then the sink was never put in the center of the recess built for it, so we had the plumber to fix that, and then we sheeted in the toilet while the other things were happening, as the old boards in the wall had shrunk, then the cellar looked pretty poorly so Sam has been shweting those walls which collected cob webs and changed a step, next thing we knew the wiring had to be moved and some new switches and outlets to put in. So we have had five different men here off and on. Asmund comes at 8 A.M., Sam at 9 they work until 5 o'clock and the other in between. We always have tea together in the afternoon which is lots of fun for they are all good friends and seem to enjoy a regular tea party. X Yesterday Mr Scott and the kids next door helped rake leaves off the back lawn, and today it is nice again so we may get the one in front done, Pete is going out now to take the leaves out of the

gutters and then after they are clean we can do the downstairs windows for winter. Always so many odd jobs like that. I have the garden plots to fix usually water those once more.

Am not just sure when would be the best time for me to go east but by the first week in November would probably be best, ^{from} about a week ~~by~~ the time you get this. Pete won't come this trip as he has so much to do here and Mr Scott is going away and he is the one who looks after our house, keeps an eye on things and our other nearest neighbors are in Cuba, (think they would be safer at home right now) I will let Hanne know as soon as I have the plane reservations. Don't let them worry about doing any ^{extra} cooking for me, as I can have a bite ^{upstairs} with you. Should be a nice time of year to be in Concord and though this will be just a short visit, we can plan to go on later in the winter, both Pete and I.

Will send this along and get busy outside while it is sunny.

Loads of love and see you soon,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sun, Oct. 25, 1959

Dearest Mother,

This probably will be the last letter I will write before seeing you in Concord, so won't make it too long. Had a wonderful one from you yesterday and was so surprised for I didn't think you felt up to writing. It is always good seeing your handwriting on the envelope. Mercelia also wrote and Cousin Alma too. You tell the Newburys~~ss~~ that it looks as if I would get ^{help} there in time to hang their pictures in their new house. Sounds ^{place} nice ^{for} them and being within easy walking distance of the village is so convenient. I know, for it is nothing to walk over town from our house. Just far enough to be good for one. Please thank them for writing we were glad to hear.

Today is Sunday and I spent all morning looking out clothes and seeing which ones fit for I haven't had most of them on since last with you, some nearly a year ago. Seem to be a trifle plumper but can still sit down in most of the dresses.

Have done so well in getting the alterations done at the back of the house. A week ago we had no idea of doing any and then Sam Ward came down Monday morning and was like his old self (he hasn't been well all summer and is over 70) and he said that Asmund would be free too so we thought it a good chance to make a light trap for the dark room and one thing led to another until we have done a lot we have wanted to do for ages. The main thing was another door into the downstairs toilet to make a way through from the darkroom to the back of the hall and upstairs if Pete wants to get up without being noticed by a caller in the kitchen. Then with knotty pine veneer it was a chance to sheet the downstairs toilet and clean that up, the old boards had shrunk so, then a chance to take the little sink out and center it at last in the nitch it is in. That mean't the plumber and the heating man

to change a heating duct and the electrician to move the light switch. Men were coming and going at a great rate and the funny part was they all seemed willing to come. We think maybe they like working here for sometimes they will all be whistling or singing at once while they work and there are lots of storys and joking too and then if they figure it right we have tea in the afternoon.

Yesterday, ^{AM} Saturday, Asmund couldn't come, as he had promised to help a man with a roof but Sam came about 10 A.M. (he was at the Masons the night before) to hang a door into the workshop. At 8.15 the plumber had come to hang the sink and then after twelve when Sam was just finishing Ted Gotke showed up to put the grills on the heating ducts, so we finished that part. Still quite a bit to do the next few days as we built in an extra cupboard and decided to make a sliding door.

I will have to tell you about our trip last Saturday when I see you, it is hard to describe it all in a letter, will look out a map to bring of the district.

Tell Hanne that I will ~~write~~ wire her as soon as I have my plane reservations and I hope George feels fine now so he can meet me at the Air port, if not I can always get out, or perhaps Pietro or Dominic could come in. I will fly to Montreal from Calgary and then on to Boston northeast Airlines, George always knows.

See you soon,

Loads of love from us both,

Catharine

Concord
Massachusetts

Monday -
Nov. 9, 1959

Dearest Mother,

I'm sitting in the
cockpit plane all ready to take
off - thought I would write a
few lines to post when we reach
Montreal.

Miss Burdett met
me at Gelotter in Cambridge as
she had ordered some things
Pete wanted for his photography.
Then we had a bite to eat at
the airport together - and met
Pale who had very kindly come

to see me off. The plane is a little late so had a chance to speak to her a bit. Think she will be out to see you Tuesday as she is going to the farm.

It seems to be clearing & lovely clouds & blue sky -

Montreal 3.30 P.M. Am all ready for the Flight to Toronto leaves at 4 P.M. but you go aboard about 15 minutes before. Have been through Immigration & Customs. The man never even opened my bag. You might tell

Concord
Massachusetts

George as he helped fasten an inside button after putting in a big lot of photographic things & it could have been difficult had the Chestnut man wanted to see things.

It's a lovely clear afternoon here & was pretty coming up. Mostly business men on the plane.

It was a lovely visit thanks to everyone at your house & you most of all. We had quite a lot of time & meals together didn't we?

See you before long -
My love to all
Catherine.

Concord
Massachusetts

Toronto, Ont.
12:40 A.M.

Dearest Mother,

Well here I am for another 3 hours I guess. Flight 9 was cancelled & I'm going on the next one at 3:35 A.M. Such a nice hour to be starting west!

Had a good trip from Montreal. lovely evening & a nice girl beside me going on to Saulte Ste Marie. Was met at the airport by Don Urquhart. Pat Mackenzie's husband. She had just left for Edmonton. I had hoped to see her but she will be

in Bauff for a few days later
on. Don couldn't have been
nicer, drove me to his home,
where I had dinner with his
mother & father & spent the
evening.

Dr Urquhart had a cold
starting so went to bed early but
Mrs Urquhart & Don & I talked
& looked at pictures - Sort of hard
on them having me land up. He
drove me back to the Airport &
luckily I said not to wait -
Went to check in & the lad said
"Flight nine was cancelled".
Seems the weather in Vancouver
was bad & so the planes didn't
come east. However the lad
was very nice & put me on
a North Star for Calgary.
Leaving at 3 35 AM I think

Concord
Massachusetts

& if I'm lucky will catch The Canadian to Banff at 1.50 PM Tomorrow - Makes the trip a bit longer - Looks as if I would be going to bed early Tomorrow night!

Airport is very quiet. floors are being washed & everyone who is sitting about - & there aren't many - look sleepy as I feel.

This will let you know I'm this far anyway -

Loads of love to all
6 thanks again -
Catharine

Concord
Massachusetts

Calgary, Alta
Tues, Nov 10, '59

Dearest Mother,

Perhaps tomorrow
I can write you a real letter -
This has seemed a long day
having started yesterday morning
& I still have the bus to Banff -
this evening which leaves at
5.45 gets in Banff by 8. P.M.,
am having tea & a sandwich in
a quiet corner. A lady just came
in & plumped down let. exhausted -
Had been shopping in the Hudson's
Bay & the lights went out. Petch black
in the basement but for one candle.
She was wondering if people
helped themselves.

Hope you got my
wire from Calgary this afternoon -
Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Nov. 12, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Well I am almost recovered from the trip back, Had I realized the Flight from ^Toronto to Calgary would be cancelled I think I would have spent the night in Toronto and come on the next day, and I should have also stayed over night in Calgary when I missed the train to Banff, but by that time I thought it best to just go right on home, but must say my head was very tired yesterday morning and I slept a good part of the day. After all I never had my clothes off or lay down from 7.30 A.M. Monday in Concord until you might say nearly 1 A.M. your time in Banff on Wednesday morning ! 41 hours in all. I don't think I would mind so much if people didn't smoke such a lot on the planes. On the night flights they sleep but on the day ones they do smoke.

Can't remember what I told you about the trip as a whole so will give you a quick resume. After leaving Concord at 11 A.M. we stopped at the photographic store in Cambridge on the way to the Air Port where I got a couple of things Pete wanted for his camera and Miss Burditt met me, then to the Air Port where she and I had ^{a bite of} lunch and then Gale arrived and we had ~~nearly~~ half an hour together and she took Miss B. back to Boston. Left on time, a good flight to Montreal, a lovely day there, warm and sunny for the short wait. The customs never even opened my bag. Then the 4 PM plane to ^Toronto where Don Urquhart met me, he is the husband of Pat MacKenzie who is a Banff girl and great friend of ours, she had just left to visit her mother in Edmonton. Don couldn't have been nicer and took me back to his home where I also met his father and mother, Dr and Mrs Urquhart. was there until 11 PM and then he drove me back out to the airport by midnight.

That was when I found my plane to Calgary which was to ~~get~~ leave

at 12.45 and reach Calgary at 5.30 Mountain time, had been cancelled. They told me the weather was very bad in the west and the planes coming east hadn't arrived, (one I noticed was 6 hours late) and so there was none to send back. The next best I could do was to take a tour~~ist~~ flight on a slower plane, the North Star leaving at 3.35 A.M. Such a nice hour. So I just sat in the Airport waiting room with several other sleepy people. The plane arrived on time but when it came to taking off again ~~we~~ were half an hour late. after 4 ^{AM} _a. Luckily I am quite good at sleeping or rather dozing sitting up even if I do have my mouth wide open, and was the only one in my pair of seats as far as Winnipeg. There a young girl got on who also lives in Banff though I never have met her before, she is a nurse at the hospital.

We were all in the plane and ready to take off when the pilot came through the plane and said there was trouble in the defroster on one of the 4 engines and it might take an hour to fix and we might even have to go to the hanger, However they fixed it in about 10 or 15 minutes and all the people who had gotten off thinking there might be a long wait came on again. Then before we reached Regina we all had breakfast, a cold one ~~served~~ served in a paper box, the lid thrown back there was a little covered paper container with Grapefruit, a dish of corn flakes and plenty of cream in another one, Then they always bring hot coffee and pour it at your seat, and a roll with butter. After that everyone it seemed lit a cigarette, and from then on they smoked until we reached Calgary at 1.54 PM over an hour late. So I of course missed The Canadian, the C.P.R. train which would have gotten to Banff about 4. Instead I had to wait for the bus at quarter to six. It was lovely in Calgary, quite cold and a light snow on the ground, the streets very treacherous and slippery, otherwise Pete would have driven down. As it was next day the road to Banff was impassable and the bus was late getting us up as the driver was slow and careful on hills.

The bad weather in the west had been the day before and the reason the planes couldn't leave Vancouver was fog. As it was we flew above the clouds most all the way west and only came down for the landings, though there was a moon on the way up by bus.

Being in Calgary for the afternoon it seemed a shame not to do a few errands so I walked quite a few blocks, the fresh air was good but I was sort of tired, tea and a sandwich about 4 o'clock revived me and then once on the bus I could relax and dozed a good part of the way up, my head bobbing about a good deal. It was nearly half past eight when we got in and of course Pete was there to meet me and then there was so much to talk about it was after ten when we went to bed.

It is real winter here, - 10° below zero this morning and don't think it is higher than - 2° now. but lovely and ^{sun}shiny today, Yesterday was Armistice Day and we never went out, was miserable all day, a fine snow and cold.

It is now after lunch and we are going over town for mail etc.

Lots of love and many thanks to you all for such a nice visit.

Catharine -

Banff, Alberta
Sat. Nov. 14, 1959

Dearest Mother,

It is really Friday evening but I started to write "Saturday " so will let it go as that. Think I have fully recovered from the loss of sleep and am back in my usual routine. We are having real wintry weather but nothing compared to Montana where they have 3 feet of snow in Helena and - 25 below. It was - 15^{or -36°} below this morning and never got above zero all day yesterday. The ground is covered with snow but it is sunny so haven't put the removable lining back in my coat yet, doesn't seem that cold.

Lots of things to catch up on as I do the books and bills and such like as a rule, magazine renewals, the banking etc., etc. Lots of desk work, goodness knows when I will get the letters all answered, and they keep coming.

Pat Mackenzie and her mother came down from Edmonton for a few days and she dropped over this morning for a short time, it was her husband ~~xxxx~~ I met in Toronto and his family who I had dinner with. Shall have to hear all about her trip abroad if there is time. They have given her a shower (last night) and today the Corsigans had a lovely tea for her, which I went to. It was a good way for Pat and her mother to see everyone.

We had a lovely big buck deer at the back door yesterday, the biggest one we have had, a lovely head and prongs, tried to get some pictures and kept throwing him bread to eat, but he would invariably move just as we snapped the pictures, then stand perfectly still in a wonderful pose when we were trying to change film or Pete to develop the Polaroid ones. It is just luck if the sun is right and the deer too. Sometimes he was too close, other times in the shadow. He ate lots of bread.

Now that my trip is over there doesn't seem much of an exciting nature to write about, or perhaps it is because it is time for us to be going to bed and my mind is slow of an evening, especially after getting the bank book to balance.

Wonder will you get this very cold spell we are having, they say it is headed east.

Many thanks again for everything. It was such a nice visit and really when you add up all I did and all the people I saw, I really did a good deal besides being with you, and seeing you was the reason I went.

Loads of love from us both,

P.S. Tell Hanne that I had a letter yesterday from the Norwegian friend Asta telling that her sister Ragna died on Oct. 31st. She had pneumonia and they gave her penicillin which cured the virus but evidently her heart couldn't take it and she passed away peacefully. Asta wrote that her mind was clear the last week, so I have an idea it wasn't always so. It was the sister who was ill so much of the time.

Loads of love
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Mon. Nov. 16, 1959

Dearest Mother,

As the weather forecaster said this morning on the radio " a moderating trend will bring the temperatures up to - 10° below ! " It is really zero now right after lunch but has hardly been warmer than that since I got home. In fact I just made it in time wearing my summer coat for it was below zero the morning after I arrived. It was nearly - 30° below yesterday, - 20° when we got up about 8.30 but much colder a little east of here. Montana is much worse off with record snow falls as well as - 30° and - 40° below. Saturday was the worst day as it was snowing and felt cold, Yesterday was brilliant sunshine and today a few clouds but plenty of snow to make it seem like the middle of winter.

Have been vefy busy since getting back and have to do some business letters this afternoon, was at the bank this morning. The house didn't seem too much dustier than when I left though I don't think Pete did more than sweep the floors, it is a lot of kids or people moving about that makes it dusty. We will soon be working on the Christmas cards and the ^{shortest} longest part is getting all the addresses right.

A nice surprise from you yesterday, your first letter since I left Concord. I don't wonder you were confused about my leaving as you were in bed and rather sleepy when I said goodbye. You turned over and probably slept a bit more and I became part of a dream. However don't feel badly for you will be seeing both of us before long. We are thinking of going east for Christmas with you, (of course if you would like us then ?) and will work hard to finish up things here so we can leave. This time I think we will try the train. The winter flights seem too uncertain and also we can take more baggage on the train. Won't take too much longer at this time of year than flying.

Two old ladies died in Banff last week and we went to one funeral on Saturday afternoon. We usually go to the cemetery to pay our respects instead of the church or chapel. It was so cold we let the men sit in our car, the ones who dig the grave, while they waited for the funeral to finish and today is the other one, must go soon. There is a west wind and it is pretty cold too.

Can't think of much of interest to tell you so all for now.

Loads of love, *from us both*

Catharine

Calgary, Alberta.
Wed. Nov. 18, 1959

Dearest Mother,

You think your head isn't quite right at times, well mine is even more upset after trying to type business letters all afternoon, I can make such foolish mistakes and then have to do the whole letter over or I get the carbon paper in the wrong way round and have a letter on the front and back of ~~each sheet~~ one sheet. Well they are done, the long ones and now I have a few notes to get away, perhaps tomorrow.

Yesterday after lunch we went up to the Sam Wards. Judy Rouzie had left a couple of dresses with me last summer that she didn't want to take home with her, summer dresses, and they looked the right size for Cis who is going with Sam to Honolulu for the winter. She was delighted and said she was going to take out 2 old dresses and put these in their place. They were bright and pretty and I think will just fit. Sam and Cis leave on Sunday but she is already packed. Sam said this time when they ~~close~~ close up the house they will do it on Saturday and then spend the night at the Mt. Royal Hotel. They are going on an Australian boat that leaves from Vancouver stops in San Francisco and Los Angeles a day each and then to Honolulu. They are lovely new ships, 3 classes.

Then we came home to write and Syd Vallance came along about 4 Four and asked if he could kill an hour with us, We always love to have him so Pete who was working in the dark room and I in the kitchen ~~typing~~ just dropped everything and had a nice visit.

It was a little milder today but still overcast and looked like snow. Was about 20° out but in Calgary it melted so the radio said. It has been cold and very wintry since I returned, and the other night blew hard all night.

If you think of it, tell Mercelia that I wished she had been here last night for we had an hours interview ^{on the radio} with Glen Gould who she heard give a concert last year. He sounded a very quiet, simple sort of person as most great men are. He is only 28 but a wonderful pianist, a friend was interviewing him and it was just like someone dropping in and talking about various things, he played a bit on the piano too.

I should have gotten this off to you today. Wonder will Rusty be with you over the weekend, hope so, but it must seem quite a trip to come back and forth so often. Still I think he likes his weekends in Concord.

It is bedtime so all for now.

Hope you are feeling more rested and can even get out in the car. You haven't seen the Newbury's house, inside have you?

Loads of love from us both,

Catherine -

Banff, Alberta.
Nov. 21, 1959

Dearest Mother,

My letters seem to be few and far between this week but Pete sent one off today to you and as I had a couple of others to do thought I would wait for more time. yesterday I was in Calgary all day so was a bit weary today.

We were both going down but the only thing Pete wanted to do was to have his glasses adjusted for the winter and as it was snowing when we got up I decided I would go by bus and do what I could. Was very lucky all day and kept going from the time the bus got in at 11.45 A.M. until 5.46 PM when we headed back. No one smoked in the bus which was nice, too many cigarettes gives me a headache, and I had a friend Ivy Paris to talk to going down and Cy Harris who talked art most of the way back, that and U.S. history which he knew more about than I did.

X One of the things we wanted to find out about was a trip we could make from the east this winter, to some warm spot not too far in time from Boston, and yet interesting and picturesque. We have been thinking of the Carribean and had the Canadian National Boats been making the trips to all the little islands they used to, that would have been fine, Now everyone goes by plane, or most everyone, as there are so few boats and none have regular schedules. There is so much to read up on it will take some time to decide what appear to be the most interesting spots. The man at Cooks was very nice and kept refering to the " Leeward and Wayward " Islands, they are usually called the "Leeward and Windward Islands " but X Pete thought he must have mixed them in his mind. It was too good to correct!

We had so little warm weather and sun to enjoy last summer and haven't been away in winter since about 1953 so we thought a few weeks in the sun and sea air would be a nice change. We have only been to Nassau and Jamaica and Cuba but never to the tiny islands which look very mountainous and interesting. Anyway it would be worth trying. So we think we will try to go to Concord just before Christmas and stay over New Years, about 2 weeks in all, then take the trip and return for another week or ten days with you, if that seems a good idea for you too.

We were awfully sorry to hear about Jessie, poor thing, (just when she was coming back to you) to fall and break a hip. Helga can certainly sympathize, Hope it isn't a bad fracture and that she won't be in hospital long. Lucky it didn't happen in Concord, but just a shame it had to happen at all. Your letter came today telling us about it.

One thing I had to do yesterday was to go to the American Consul in Calgary as my letter of identification had run out, so I thought this time I would apply for a passport. A young girl was good enough to type out the form and would ask me questions or refer to my old passport. I thought one question rather amusing "Name your last husband." as if they expected all Americans to have five or six. and then when I read it over before signing I found that she had discreetly put my hair down as on the previous passport "brown" but underneath had neatly typed "graying."

The stores were all newly decorated for Christmas and looked very pretty but seem so hot to me I can never think very clearly in them. It was a nice mild day for the trip and even rained a little as we returned to Banff.

Cousin Alma wrote us a nice long letter about Aunt Julie's party etc. Please thank her and I will answer before long, most likely with a Christmas card! We will be working on those soon.

Loads of love from us both,
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Wed. 3. Nov. 26, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Well I just gained a day which I badly need at this time of year, thought it was Thursday and suddenly realized I wasn't thinking of all of you eating turkey and pie as you should be doing! But I will remember to tomorrow. How nice that Helga and Hanne are having the family for their dinner up at the house, am sure they will have a good time and I know it will be a wonderful meal, My mouth is watering just thinking of it.

A nice letter from you came this morning, I enclose one of your envelopes that came without being stamped so looks as if you might just as well use it again with a little paste or sticky paper to close the envelope, It is all addressed and ready for mailing, stamp and all.

Have worked two whole evenings on looking over letters that I have never answered this past year and corrected addresses and now will have to check the list of those we send Christmas cards to with the address book and type out a new list. Each year I think it will do once more but there are so many corrections I can hardly find the names. The card hasn't been printed yet, but we hope it will be ready tomorrow.

Monday afternoon Verne Castella dropped in and then Tom Londsdale the retired minister who liked to paint, He is rather discouraged with his pictures and we don't think his wife encourages him too much, so we worked over time and gave him tea and he went away quite happy.

Then yesterday I was doing quite well subduing the top of the desk when a car drove in the yard and a high ranking Mountie. Luckily I recognized him from his picture in the paper I had recently come across, for have only met him once. Stuart Grayson, the son of the 2nd. husband of Aunt Maggie Grayson, really no relation but one feels he is a first cousin as we were so fond of his father. He is an Inspector, which is high in the Mounties, and head now

of this detachment of division based in Calgary. He spent years in the Peace River Country with the ~~Provincial~~ ^{RCMP} Police and then was transferred to the mounties and spent 6½ years during the war in Europe in the Provost Corps. Which is intelligence and the police in the Army. He had a lot to do with screening refugees and told us many interesting things. Stayed for tea and spent 2 hours talking. It was raining hard when he left for Calgary but we did enjoy his visit.

Are going out now to try and get the printer started on the cards if we can. Had a nice letter from Hanne and she said you had been to see the Newburys, guess I told you ^{about letter before} that. Also a nice one from Mercelia over a week ago. How nice that Rusty comes most every weekend, He will be more and more of a help to you as time goes on, I think. You should ask him about things you are uncertain about and he will find out for you. He seems very good at doing things, goes right after them.

Loads of love from us both,

Catharine

Banff, Alberta.
Sat. Nov. 28, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Such a nice letter came from you this morning to Peter, and as he said it is probably harder for you to write to him than the effort he spends writing to anybody. He was very pleased.

We went out early this morning, had promised to show some slides of Susan Mather's wedding to her mother as we have a viewer but Joan Cricker who wanted to see them too, was at the dentist so we had to go back a little later, did errands in between and a few afterwards so it was after 11.30 when we got home, found a note on the door saying that George Kaquits had been here at 11.15 A.M. so must have just missed him. Sort of provoking as we had hoped to get some Polaroid pictures of him. But you never know when Indians will show up, very unpredictable.

X
Yesterday we were busy over the cards, Went Thursday afternoon and found they had already printed the black drawing part, and ~~went~~ then at 9 AM yesterday to be sure they got the brown of the animals right, and then right after lunch to check on the blue for the sky, and they were finished and delivered before 7 PM so that was nice. The other printer spent so much time fiddling about that two or three times we stood for several hours at a time until he got the thing right. This is a new process and Pete is very pleased, It is a lithograph machine I think and the color looks more like water color. Now Pete is to put on one quick wash, (quick for one or two cards but takes time for nearly 500) He plans it out so that it goes quite quickly and sometimes I do the bits of red, you can do 25 or 50 cards at a sitting.

We also are being quite gay unexpectedly. Thought we would miss all the Christmas parties by going away but yesterday Mrs Dempster asked us to tea on Sunday, just a few like the Simpsons and Dr and Mrs Atkin, the Wallances and Cyril Paris and his father. I laughed when she said that Big Jim Simpson couldn't come as he was going to Bow Lake that day, Trust him to get out of a tea party, he isn't any keener on them than Pete. Then Mr Lapper the bank manager asked us to supper tonight, The Wallances and one or two others. The bank managers always have to entertain their best customers, the banks are branches in Canada, Just half a dozen large ones with small branches in every town, no privately owned banks. It is good of them to do it but what a chore on the wife! Sometimes they give cocktail parties but this is dinner. Seems to me ^{at the Cocktail parties} we always made a meal out of the Hors d'oeves anyway and stayed until 9 or 10 o'clock so guess they figured they might as well feed us.

Syd Vallance is the retired lawyer who does all our things. He retired nearly 10 years ago from business in Calgary which his son and son-in-law look after but am sure he has been far busier since he came up here than he was before, Everyone tries to get him to write wills and look after things for them. He is great fun, also very forgetful. Yesterday he and his wife Doris came down for a minute, she was talking to me at the door and Pete sat with Syd in the car for a few minutes. They were talking about the two functions we are all going to this weekend, and Syd said to Pete " It's nice the way they get all the older people together." and Pete interrupted saying " Just a minute, Old people, we aren't that old ! " Poor Syd was all confused but we won't let him get off that easy.

Have been busy in odd hours figuring out the trip, We are getting really enthusiastic the more we read about the various islands and of course want to see as many as possible, the Wallances were there 2 years ago and so have been a big help in advising hotels to stay at.

but it is still hard to know how long to be in each place and where to land on weekends and the transportation is just certain days of the week. I like figuring that sort of thing but it takes time.

We thought of you on Thanksgiving and hope you had dinner with Helga and Hanne's family. With the children it would be more fun, but perhaps you felt it was too confusing. Anyway I know you would have a good dinner. Think you said, or Hanne, that Kitty and Rusty would be in Philadelphia and I expect Gale would be with the Guilds which is a large family to belong to.

The weather with us is mild again and quite nice for this time of year. ⁵ 3 days of rain sounds much too much to me. and Miss Burditt said it was very dreary looking.

Loads of love and we should be with you in 3 weeks time for Christmas. Think now we will start our trip to the Carribean right after New Years and then stop again ^{with you} for a short visit on our way back. In that way you will have 2 visits from us and we should have lots to tell you about in between.

Loads of love once more

Catharine

Banff, Alberta
Nov 30, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Tomorrow is the first of December & if all goes well we will be flying east 3 weeks from today. I've just made a quick trip to Calgary to get reservations for our trip. Didn't realize we had left it so late but did manage to get a flight, evidently not easy just before Christmas.

It's turned out to be a lovely day - 45° above in Calgary. I wasn't there long enough to get too hot. One never knows at this time of year when it will suddenly storm & Pete didn't have to go for anything or we might have driven down. Took the bus, always several friends on it. Last time I sat with Irvy & Iris as she goes back & forth quite a bit & I gave her the other half of the round trip train ticket I had when I went east.

This morning Pete said hopefully maybe you can catch the train back at 1:50 P.M. 2 hours to plan a ^{computer} trip. See the new Art Centre & do a number of errands didn't seem very long. On the bus today was Irvy again so I asked about the train ticket. She hadn't used it so gave it back & here I am on the Canadian & will be home this afternoon at 4 if on time.

Didn't stop for lunch when we reached Calgary but went straight to the Cooks. The man we knew before had gone on vacation but got a nice young man - Dutch, & he will let us know if he can arrange transportation to all the islands we hope to see.

That took about 30 minutes. So took a taxi to the new Allied Auto Centre which has just moved from the Coste House. a house building they have long outgrown in the residential district & now have taken over the Union Tractor Building. It is going to be a wonderful one for their use as it is almost a block in size - has 2 floors -

Then back to the Bookshop where I wanted to get a book of synonyms. found one in a paperback or cheap edition which was perfect instead of an expensive book.

Then got a nice little bag for the plane at another store. Ordered a Christmas present of dishes for a girl in B.C. Got 2 more presents for you would never guess who. One I may send soon in case you want more. By then it was getting so close to train time I got 10 instead of 12 at 95¢ as I thought it would be quicker to figure. They were marked down.

Had 5 blocks to walk. I found a long line up at the ticket window but made the train just right. Have had a good dinner, for having eaten at 8 I was hungry.

The parties were very nice. both of them. Saturday evening we had dinner at the Lappers, he is the Bank Manager. The Vallances, a Marian Purdy & her sister Gertrude Lambert. & a Mrs Tillie Macpherson. So besides an excellent roast beef dinner with

perfect Yorkshire pudding & gravy & a delectable dessert there was much good talk. We left at 10 but the rest were still there.

Yesterday we were busy all day. Pete ~~is~~ doing another 25 cards & I still figuring islands, hotels to stay, & connections. At 3.30 we went to tea at the Dempsters a very nice one & first tea. Old ~~ma~~ Pairs (about 10 years younger than you) Cyril his son. Dr & Mrs Atkin. (he is the retired doctor from the early days) The Crosbys from next door (He had felt so good after returning from a trip to Cuba & Trinidad he went skating. Tried a few figures. fell & dislocated a shoulder & cracked a bone. but he was there) Also the Madsons from the School of Fine Arts & the Vallances Mrs Simpson & Lois Riley. It was a good group & very pleasant.

This is quite a scribble but the train is a little fuggy & I'm writing on my knees. not my own pen either.

Loads of love from us both.
Catharine

Banff, Alberta.

Dec. 4, 1959

Dearest Mother,

This is really to wish you a very Happy Birthday and we hope you enjoy seeing and hearing from your many friends. Just wish we too could be there but seeing I was in Concord just a few weeks ago ^{we} and ~~7~~ will be there in less than 3 weeks, (really just 2 weeks by the time you get this) it won't matter so much. We are looking forward to Christmas with you and New Years.

2 nice letters from you today, one with a 4¢ stamp and the other Air Mail. The one with just 4¢ wasn't ~~stamped~~ cancelled so if you like you can use it over! Hate to waste a good stamp like that. Do hope you went out when it was such a lovely bright day.

We have had quite a busy week. As I wrote, was in Calgary on Monday, Tuesday worked on cards and addresses, then Wednesday morning Pearl Moore came down to ask us to a farewell dinner for Mrs Painter who is flying to California to be with her son for the winter, the Vallances were going too. Then we got a message about 1 PM that the dentist could see both of us at 2 PM, had an hour free, someone hadn't shown up or cancelled their appointment, so over we went and each had a tooth filled. He does a little on one and then on the other having 2 chairs as most dentists do now.

Then I phoned Calgary and found out that Thos. Cooks had gotten most of the reservations, am not sure which ones and may not be able to book all we want but it is encouraging about our trip. Then that evening went to the Mt Royal at 6 PM and had a very nice time and a very good roast beef dinner. Tasted very good and there were just the 6 of us.

Then yesterday we again went to the dentist at 3 and are both finished for this time. We hardly hoped to get that in before going

east. There are so many things like that to be done.

Otherwise we are just working away at the cards and lists and getting a few parcels away.

No. We haven't heard from Rusty in New York. ^{for some time} So if you feel like it do send us some letters to read or tell us how he likes it and what he is doing.

I am sure you will be very busy next week and plenty of cards and notes to read so will just wish you a very happy time and we will be seeing you soon we hope.

Loads of love from us both,

Catharine -

P.S. I saw something that I thought might be just right for you and so sent it for your birthday, but I also told Hanne if you didn't like it that she could use it in her room! So you don't even have to wonder who to give it to.

Banff, Alberta.
Thurs. Dec. 10, 1959

Dearest Mother,

It was really good to hear you on the phone yesterday, you were just as clear as if you had been in the next room, but having spoken on a phone but once since my return from Concord I seemed to be tongue tied, couldn't think of anything to say. Should have had subjects written out. It was good of Aunt Julie to call on you, quite a trip for her to come down but am sure she enjoyed it. Hope lots of friends dropped in and that it was a real happy day for you.

X We have been working on cards, not too much but every chance we get. Pete has colored with a wash 575 and I have gotten off 42 to Europe and overseas places and 25 to Honolulu, quite a few with letters and some X with notes, Answering letters during the year. I was going to do the Concord ones this afternoon but instead had to write the Thos Cook Man, He has our itineray all worked out and the flights confirmed but there was one change we wanted to make and it all takes time figuring. Now it is nearly 4 o'clock and I should mail it. Also see if Eldon Walls is back from his trip to New York.

We were gay yesterday, rather interrupting but when you are asked by good friends and they only give a party once a year you hate to refuse. This was a cocktail party, but no cocktails, just a little of whatever you wanted and lots of good tid bits to eat and sandwiches. We went at 5.30 and stayed until quarter of eight, almost had supper there but had a glass of milk and a sandwich when we got home too. The Vallances, Pearl Moore, and quite a lot of people you wouldn't know. a nice group, about 20 so we all sat down. Now Saturday we are invited to the Vallances at 5 PM but they are having more, 35 or 40 .

The weather is still mild but we haven't had time to go out and do anything special, not much to do really at this time of year outside as most of the snow has gone. skating good though.

Our plans. We will reach Boston on Tuesday afternoon at 1.30PM December 22nd. ~~Tuesday~~ on North East Airlines from Montreal. George will know as it is the same flight ^I ~~we~~ took before.

We will be with you 2 weeks and then our plans are to fly down to the West Indies and see all we can, stop with you for another week ~~the~~ on the way back and be in Banff the first part of March. So hope it all works out.

Must get this in the mail now.

Heaps of love from us both and see you soon.

Catharine



MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Sialia currucoides

Le Merle bleu de montagnes

Length, about 7 inches

As the common Eastern Bluebird is to the east, so the Mountain Bluebird is to the west, from much of the prairies to the coast. It comes readily to bird boxes and has all the pretty ways of the eastern bird. It inhabits the gardens and builds in the out-buildings, and is equally at home in the heat-baked coulées of the bad lands and the lonely passes of mountains and brulés. Its pretty warbling song gives a feeling of happy peace, and its delicate ethereal blue seems not of this world but of Maeterlinck's Bluebird of Happiness come to earth.

Dec 2 1959

Dearest Mother

This space to be used for Message

The address may be written here

How do you like my new cards. 50 for a dollar from the Queen's Printer! that's the Government. We are very busy with cards & Xmas parcels. I hope on us. I thought we would miss all parties this year. Have been to a supper & tea last weekend & have this morning Pearl Moore came down to ask us for dinner at Mt Royal to night. Mrs Painter & the Vallances.

POST

BRAND





EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Sialia sialis

Le Merle bleu à gorge rouge

Length, about 7 inches

Next to the Robin the Bluebird is perhaps the most beloved of our common birds. It nests readily in bird boxes in the suburbs, and with its pretty warbling song, gentle ways, and wonderful cerulean colour, it endears itself to all. Coming early while the fields are still bare and sere, it is one of the harbingers of spring, and its soft notes coming down from above in the autumn mournfully presage the coming of stern winter.

Once, in many sections one of the commonest of birds, its numbers are now, from some unknown cause, reduced. It still nests in many gardens, but when it does so, it is a distinct matter of congratulation to the owner instead of the matter of course it once was.

The Eastern Bluebird is found over most of southern Canada westward, including the eastern prairies.

have a lot to do
today so thought I
could just send these
cards instead of
letter. There are
the difference between
the Eastern & the
Blue Bird.

This space to be used for Message

POST CARD

Mountain one -
Our Bluebird over
looks blue all over
& is brighter than
picture

Hope all goes well
& loads of love
Pete & Catherine



The address may be written here

Banff
Mon. Dec. 14, 1959

Dearest Mother,

Just a hurried note before the mail goes, We are hearing about your birthday gradually, first Miss Burditt wrote that she had seen Gale and we were so glad that Gale could go out and be with you and help with the festivities, Hear that Helga baked you a very lovely Norwegian cake and she and Hanne and Gale all sang Happy birthday, Then we had a nice letter from Bradford Washburn this morning saying that he had been out to wish you a very Happy Birthday and the card had been signed by more than 60 members of the Museum of Science staff. Goodness me that was pretty special. and a good start to your day I know.

We have been very busy. Saturday was the Vallances Party which was very nice and then yesterday I finished nearly all the U.S.A. cards and those are sent, all but about 4. Still have all the Canadian ones to go. Was to do those today but other things have come up to see to, business things mostly.

Our weather is mild but after the most beautiful full moon last night it began to snow very gently this morning and has kept up all day, don't know how much we will have in the end.

I will send this along and as it will reach you so soon before we arrive, I won't write more,

Heaps of love and we are so happy to think you were feeling well on your birthday and could enjoy all the fun.

Catharine

P.S. I wrote that we expect to arrive on Tuesday, December 22nd, North East Airlines, from Montreal. at 1.30 PM in Boston. George knows about it too.