

# DorleLettersA L0006 (English)

Vancouver, Dec. 14, 59 1959

Dear Mother, For Christmas, I wish you all the best. Will Medi and Bärbel be with you? How much you all will need the holidays! How far along are you with the work? I wonder how that will be next year? But now at Christmastime, one shouldn't worry so much. How is Ursel? Do you have an address for Liesel there in Stetten? Other than a few postcards from the summer, I haven't heard from her since Easter. I couldn't even write to her for her birthday. My vacation in Toronto was very eventful. My drive was wonderful, even though I was alone. The most beautiful experience was Yellowstone Park with its boiling geysers and springs. The best part was that I had the whole park to myself, because it had officially been closed since October. I asked a park ranger, and he gave me permission to drive through. In August, there had been a very strong earthquake there, which had buried entire valleys and canyons. In some places the pavement of the road had burst open, and boiling water was coming out right from the middle of the road. There is a geyser called "Old Faithful" that spouts water at regular intervals of one hour, over 100 feet high. In total, there are over 3000 geysers and hot springs in the park, which is about 2500 meters above sea level. The whole park bubbles and boils and steams and hisses. There is a mountain that rumbles and rumbles so loudly that you can hardly understand anything, and steam comes out of all the cracks. Some springs are a warm pulp of sulfur or copper that comes boiling out of the earth. The day was very cold, snow lay on the road and in the forest, and through the frosty landscape flows a stream that looks like an ordinary little forest brook, clear water, but as hot

as a cozy bath. In the park there are very many bears and buffalo and elk and moose, which are all very wild, and many tourists are attacked by the bears alone every year because they aren't careful. In Toronto, everything was then a bit tight on time. I arrived on Friday evening, and on Sunday was the baptism of Ursel Schnell, for whom I am the god-mother. Afterwards, there was a big youth group reunion at Sigmund and Ellen Steiner's. All the old friends were together, and 4 babies were already there with them. The week then went by quickly with visits and parties, and on Saturday and Sunday we were still at the N.Y.is and Clausen's cottage. I slept in the car again on the way home, even though it was as cold as -20 degrees Celsius. Now we are skiing a lot again, there's already over 1 1/2 meters of snow here at Baker, where we always go. At Christmas we also want to go ski...