

9 Jan. 00

Dear Frances,
It's now high time to get back
into letter writing habits now that
all the cards & everything have been
carefully stowed away. The place
looks very bare without all the
Christmas clutter, but enough is
enough. I've really enjoyed all
the news I've had from England,
& life has been very dull here
also. Dorothy Cogswell asked me
to lunch yesterday & they
really are a delightful pair—
such sincere outdoor folk!
She has lent me a beautiful
book (brand new I would say)
about "Cougar Annie", an
amazing character who lived
about 70 years (she lived to
her '90's) on the West Coast
of the Island & had a beautiful
garden which she wrested from

the wilderness. From this she
built up a business selling seed all
over the world. She was a crack
shot & killed ⁸⁰ cougars & bears;
She had 11 children & went
through 4 husbands. The last
three were really handy men! I
haven't got very far with it yet,
but the writer has painted such
a picture of the wet, dank
collapsed state of houses &
board walks, abandoned &
rotting from many years ago.
I'm so glad I've seen some of this
at first hand!

I've been busy trying to write
a letter to the Mayor & City
Council, as we are in danger of
such a hullabaloo about the
uses of Beacon Hill Park, & I
have a big stake in this, living
just opposite. Fortunately we
have a new Mayor & Council,

younger & mostly more sensible,
& it will be very interesting to
see how things turn out. They
have to make a decision I think
early in February.

I am finding it horribly dark in the
mornings & very difficult to brace
myself for an early morning swim,
but any minute now the evening
will be noticeably lighter, & then
all of a sudden there will be a
feeling of Spring.

I had a letter recently (a P.C) from
Jean Pidditch almost begging me to
go & visit her - I must have
mentioned that our choir plan to
go to a Mod at Dunoon! I am not
going anywhere big this year &
couldn't take in Ludlow. I do
hope she has made some friends there,
but I imagine that England isn't
as well equipped as Victoria is
for a good social life for older
people. Pat Buck studies

English literature with a USA
group, but Jean P. isn't that
sort of person. I think she still
has to be perpetually on the go.
I will have to write politely back.
Where does her daughter Frances
live? Not too close, I hope.
I've heard 2 or 3 awful stories
of people's family Christmases
where the family gathering was
anything but happy. We are all
far better in our separate holes
& corners.

I look forward to hearing
from you now that the
millennium is behind us.

Much love to

Jane