



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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The Hartridge School
Plainfield, New Jersey

January 9, 1936.

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Musser:

I was so glad to get your Christmas note and to know that Laura Jane is happy and doing well.

If she is planning to transfer to another college, she should write the Dean in order to make sure that the subjects she is carrying will be acceptable. It is a question that I cannot answer. Also it is much better to have the statement direct from the college.

I haven't been at Vassar this year and, although the Dean wrote that she would like to come to us for part of the holidays, she was unable to do so at the last minute.

After Laura Jane has all her information, I should be glad to talk it over with her, if she will write me about it.

Please forgive a typewritten letter. It takes a great deal of love to you and the hope that I shall see you and Mr. Musser before very long.

Affectionately yours,

Lj Hartridge

EBH:G

P. S. Enclosed is a letter from Smith that I should have returned earlier.

Oct. 10, 1936

LAURA JANE MUSSER

Dearest mother and Daddy-

This letter is written chiefly to ask you to send me some information. I am joining an International relationship club here and Miss Adams who was the organizer has delegated me to search for material which I shall need a week from next Thursday. Do you remember that article on Fandon in last summer's Saturday Post? I should like that, also (if you can remember) the details of his

speech in Minneapolis - what
tactics he suggested adopting to
help settle the U.S. problems, ^{his foreign Policy} etc.

Also I would like a list of any
^{Minneapolis to Iowa} speakers whom you know of who
speak on International Problems -
Thank you very much - Also could
you send any good article on
Roosevelt and the main issues of his
speech. You see, I want quite a
lot. Until after election we are
working on the ~~partisan~~ their
platforms and afterwards Int. problems.
It ought to be very interesting, don't you
think?

Please write me soon - both
of you - Lovingly, Letaie -



Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Monticello College
Gadfrey, Ill.

Do you know anything Oct. 29, 1936
about the Huttigs? They sent me a lovely box of
Candy from N. Y. and I want to write them a
note, but I don't know where to reach them,
do you?

Dearest mother,

A birthday letter to you,
Dearest! Many, many happy returns of the
day! and a million kisses + hugs - perhaps
spanks if you prefer - Mary and I are
collaborating as usual to send you a
gift. Let Mary's choice predominate for she
has better means of getting around than I have,
and perhaps is more aware of what you
need!

You just don't know how glad I
was to hear your voice the other night.
You sounded so well and happy. I had
a very nice letter from Aunt Laura in
answer to mine. She told me all about

her standard to ~~help~~ get something across to
her students. I don't think ~~there~~^{she} argued
once with her, so I get along beautifully giving
her the benefit of the doubt. One of the things
she's going to do for me is have her mother make
me an Afghan (sq.). She (Mrs. U.) has one,
and I was admiring it, and she said if I
really liked it she'd have her mother make me one.
Wasn't that nice? Mrs. U. is darling too, etc. so
I haven't a care in the world other than my
school work, and that's hard, goodness knows!
I'm content, however, if I pass, and that they
all said I would, so I'm happy as a
cricket.

So Mrs. Rosoff sent me that music.
I wasn't expecting to get all of it for I protested
rather violently against that. I think that
was lovely of her to do it, for I know what
the intrinsic value was to her as it shall
be to me. Yes, by all means send it!

the grand time you all had together, and
she said she certainly misses you both.

You asked me about my music.
My piece is coming along fine, thank you
but my Harmony not so well. I don't think
Miss A. likes the amount of work
she gives me, and really, it's awfully hard on
my eyes! I mentioned the fact to her today
and she almost went up in smoke! I
patiently bided my time, however, and said
that I would do as much as I possibly
could and to the best of my ability. She
calmed down at that, though, fuming now
and then! She's a dear thing really, and
does numerous nice things for me. But
she is a genius, and what comes easy for
her is hard for me, and she doesn't realize
this, but I don't get mad at her for indulging
it must be awfully hard for her to go below

I'll try and write her as soon as possible,
but I think I had better see the music
before I do so, so send it as soon as you
can.

Thanks for the names of the speakers
I'll tell Miss Adams as soon as possible.
I think that man from Muscatine would
be worth trying seeing that he is nearer
to Monticello than the others.

Well, darling Mom + Dad, another
letter from you both soon I hope.
and again a happy birthday to you
mother darling - How I wish I could be
there. Lovingly, Lotie

P. S. Do you know anything about our
new symphony director Mr. Levinsky? Many
Sanguinetti know him and says he's very fine.
We'd better be!

I'm really tickled pink about the music
possibilities here. Almost as good as New York!



Mrs. R. D. Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

A light gray, textured envelope with a triangular sticker in the upper right corner. The sticker is black with a white border and contains the word "MONTICELLO" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The envelope has a standard V-shaped flap and a small tear at the top left corner.

MONTICELLO



Mrs. R. D. Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Monticello College
Godfrey, Illinois -



Mr. R. D. Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Monticello College
Gadney, Illinois

Nov. 10, 1936

LAURA JANE MUSSEY

Dearest mother;

Another letter from me. Really, darling, I'm so sorry I don't get to write oftener but it's almost impossible. I received your letter a few days ago and I can understand the 'coming home' situation perfectly. I'm not so sure that Maup's mother will approve of her flying home but as yet she has had no word. The plane from St. Louis to Chicago leaves at three Wed. P.M. getting into Chicago in time to catch the 5:15 plane to L.F. It would be a thrilling experience I admit but unless the roads improve the trip would be impractical. It has turned a little colder here

and I expect winter will be a long in a few weeks. The fall term has flown by so terribly fast. Quarter exams start next week and then Thanksgiving. By the way, I heard from Cousin Mary - rather she called me up, and said that if there were no way of my getting home, she'd love to have Mary and I come with her. But don't mistake me please, if I have a chance to come home I want to take that chance provided it's convenient for you. Another thing, we don't have to be back until Monday even A.M. that will mean I'll have to take the train from Minneapolis to St. Louis Sun. night in order to be back in time, but we'll talk about that later. The more I am with Mary the happier I am that I'm taking her home with me. It's so nice of you to

let me.

I had a very nice letter from Aunt Bobbie. Poor soul, she's been so ill and lonely; how I'd love to go out and see her or have her come to St. L. She has been almost my mother the first seven years of my life and I love her so.

I wrote Mary - not a very interesting letter I fear, but a letter of a fashion. I have a book of her Schumann music here which I have no copy of sending her. In my next laundry after this I'll send it to you so you can get it to her. I received a piece of your birthday cake, darling, and how it made me think of you. I love you and daddy so very very much!

Mr. Ulrich has asked me to try out for the December recital. The tryouts are during exam week and if I find

have to do too much work I probably
won't be in it, but I think it would be
rather fun. Miss Allich has given me
a Mac Dowell piece - your favorite I believe
and I'm getting more out of it than I
ever had before. Personally, I don't care
an awful lot about Mac Dowell, but
his better than my old Bach Prelude
which I never will learn to play decently.

By the way, Miss Adams is my
advisor for this year and I am so glad
both she and Miss W. were very ill
last week with flu which by the way
has been going around the school the past
few weeks. I hope I don't get it especially
at a time like this - Did I tell you Miss
Adams' sister goes to college here? She's
the sweetest girl and she's such fun to
be with. Mrs. Allich has asked both her
and me to go to the place where she teaches

LAURA JANE MUSGER

next Tuesday and spend the day. I think it would be very interesting. Mother, you just don't know the grand time I'm having here. The girls are grand and loads of fun. And my life is just one grand round of happiness — happiness that hurts. I hope you and dad are as happy as I am. I don't know how well I'm doing in my subjects but I'm having too good a time to worry. I read my Unity or try to read it every day, and I also have read an article (religious) on the relationship of the soul with the divine — or the spirituality of life, and it has given me a deeper

understanding of human nature, I think,
and more tender affection. I
wish you could read it. You know
once a long time ago you said that
I should always let the spirit of the
divine (perfect harmony) work through
me in everything I did and said and
life would be happy and easier - boiled
down to a more understandable theory it
means don't make an over effort in
anything - I find that's true in my studies,
my music, my seeing and hearing - I see why -
my piano, for example, when I'm playing
for the sheer joy of it, my fingers can do
amazing things in technique, then when
I concentrate from the standpoint of
straining I'm lost. I never realized this
before, and it used to make me so mad
when I'd work hard and couldn't get it.

When Miss Ulrich suggests something
to do that sounds utterly impossible, if I
do it without knowing how or why I'm doing
it I get it every time! That goes with every
thing else. I think I have this fact
more under control so I can do it at will.
Every thing that works out makes me feel
as though I had made a ^{new} discovery.

Of course there are days when I'm
too tired and restless to work out this theory,
and then I'm down and out, and can't
think it's only just beginning - but
I'll persevere all this theorizing.

Well, darling, something tells
me I'd better get busy. I have my
Chemistry and French yet to get - so
until next time -

Ever so lovingly,
Lotsie.

May 22, 1936

LAURA JANE MUSSEY

Mommy precious;

How I do love your letters! and how I do love to hear from you. Really, it's the one outstanding event here when I do hear from you.

I'm so glad you are feeling so much better. "Penny game" and don't overdo for I expect to do a lot of things with you this summer - golf etc. etc. It doesn't seem possible that school will be over two weeks from Monday! and maybe I'm not glad! Considering the eight exams I have to take! By the way, while I think of it! Do you want me to come home via St. Louis or via Chicago?

most heavenly steak and chicken dinners I have ever tasted anywhere. By the way we had the annual picnic today and I got so tired and bitten I can hardly stand up -

By the way, I did not get in the June play. I don't know why as Miss Alspach promised me a part. but she's kinda queer - has gets you know. I don't care much as I have far too much work to do. I wonder if Mrs. U. had any thing to do with it? But it doesn't matter - people are what they are - and there's no getting around it so you might just as well make up your mind to them. As you can't hope to change them - and really, when you look at it that way how surprised you are to find them perhaps just the ones to be congenial with, but I wish I could adapt

and would you make reservations for Thurs. June 11. Thanks so much. I'm staying with Mabel you see from Mon. to Thurs. I don't want to stay any longer than I can help for I do want to get home!

Last Sat. was May day and I took part in it singing in the chorus and turning pages for Miss Jones. The mosquitoes were so ferocious that we were both driven almost crazy - Miss U. did ask me to play - it was her brother that didn't want me to - but we didn't play anyway as the weather was too nice for any indoor activities.

For the past four Sat's - I've been eating over at the tea room with June Bailey mostly. She's one of my very good friends here and we have lots of fun. This eve. for ex. Mabel, Ruth, June and myself ate over there. They have the

myself to human nature faster. In some way this school has been harder than Hartridge, but in other ways things that have happened have been blessings in disguise - I guess one can learn something wherever one goes, and the best way I guess to form one's friends is to take everyone in - for they all have feelings, and not pay too much attention to any particular one. The friends I've wanted to make here were much harder to make than the friends who just naturally with that sympathetic human understanding wanted to be friends with me - and the funny thing was at first I wouldn't let them, but kept haubering after the other ones 'til finally disillusioned by them turned to the other ones who literally received me with open arms, and now perhaps have done more for me than any one else could.

LAURA JANE MUSSER

You know one time I was so homesick
 (right after my fight with the 'fighters')
 I cried for two days straight. It's the first
 and last time I will ever have that -
 but I was so tired and bothered anyway.
 Well, different girls and different
 members of the faculty came down
 just to say something funny or cheery
 and all - mostly ones I didn't really
 feel friendly at all toward me - you know
 what I mean - sympathized with me
 and were the sweetest thing and
 that certainly gave me something to
 think about. So if there's one thing I've
 learned that is not to misjudge a
 person too quickly - for what you give

how I feel about that but - if you insist I'll give you a list you can make a choice from -

1. jewelry set. neck - ear rings - bracelet ring etc -
 - or 2. tiara . or evening thing for hair
 - or 3. evening wrap
 - or 4. Gold or silver evening slippers
 - or 5 - 2 sport dresses (cotton or linen)
 - or 6 - 2 musical biographies
 - or 7. - a portable victrola - because that other one's wearing out -
 - or 8. new tennis racket ^{+ balls} or new golf clubs -
 - or 9. 3 victrola records - ^{organ rolls} "L'opéra midi d'une nuit" ^{Delucy} "A night on a Bald Mountain" ^{Sibelius} "Tapiola" ^{or Delucy} "Perpetual motion" by Poulenc ^{or} "Reflets d'Alsace" ^{or} "L'ère", on the piano or the popular music "She Shall Have Music", "Tormented", "Lost"
- So there you have my list

them they'll give back to you!

Pardon me for being so philosophical but I feel in the mood tonight - guess it's the heat -

Mabel won't be able to come home with me as her cousin is coming up - she might be able to come up later on! But you know she can't afford much so I guess she won't be able to come at all - she isn't very enthusiastic about it so I'm not pressing the matter.

Confound it, this is just before I get the curse and I feel in the doldrums - so don't mind if this letter gets groggy - it isn't really I!

The second tiered recital comes off for those who didn't get in the first - this aft.

You asked me what I wanted for my birthday well - you know

See Pleusey. vous de cela ? - Otherwise
you can ignore it !

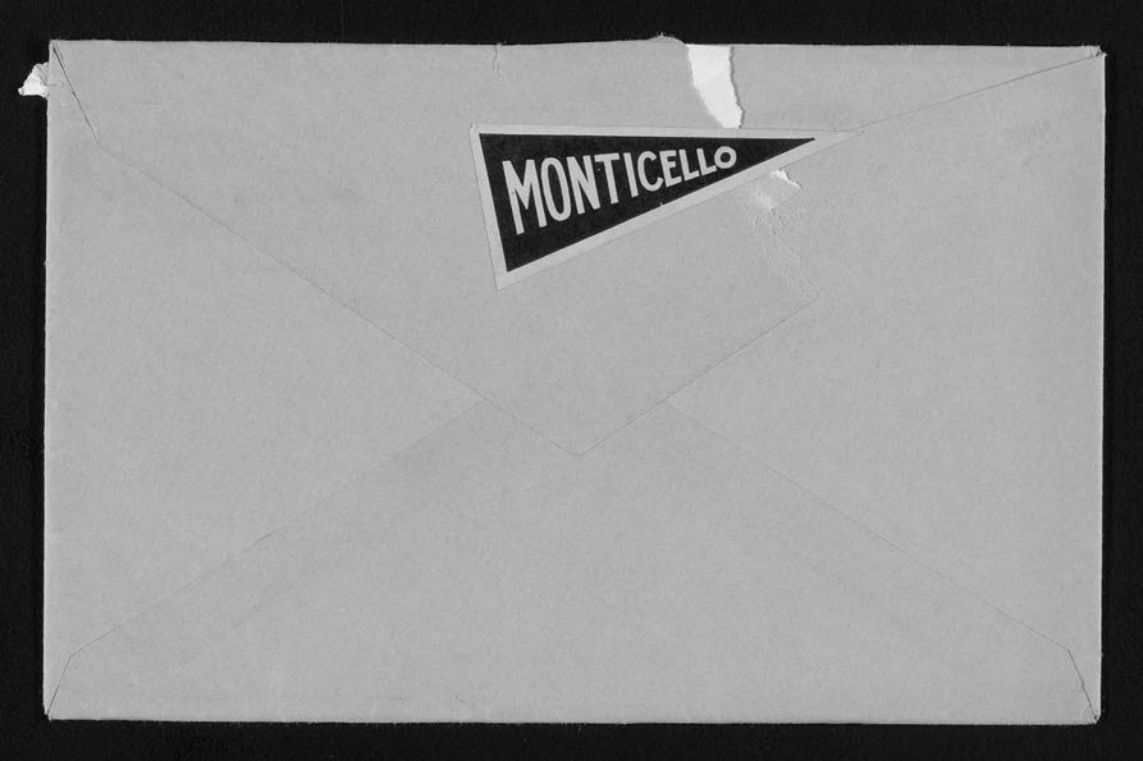
Now Darling - a letter from
you before Xmas Shoppe -

All my love,
Lottie

P.S. What a nice letter from Dad
yesterday. Would you please send me
some more stamps -



Mrs. R. D. Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota



MONTICELLO



Mrs. R. D. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

Monticello College
Godfrey
Illinois

Oct. 8, 1936

LAURA JANE MUSSER

Dearest daddy;

Thanks loads for your letter. I enjoyed it so much. I am enjoying it more and more each day. The girls are so nice and such fun. I am seeing more of them this year than ever I did before.

The other day I got a nice letter from Cousin Bud to the effect that they would be glad to know of anything I might need or want to have done in St. Louis - but no invitation to see them.

Tell mother I like my swimming class very much. I am learning to do the crawl stroke which is a little complicated.

Norma Shearer and Leticia Howard. Hows very good but I cried all the way through.

I haven't seen much of the Ulrichs at all. I'm too busy to bother about them!

How does it seem at home without us? I know how it seems to us without you darling. But only 10 wks more and I'll be home if not before.

And now, will you please ask Claudina to send me my black patent leather belt, my brown wool jacket with the checked scarf that goes with my dress. some more hangers - some books (which I did not get) some peptoglyme tablets; and the blue silk slippers that belong with my blue silk blouse of my pajamas - I guess that's all + the other things I asked mother to have sent. Thanks loads for the other things.

Lovingly,

Lottie

Please ask for Helen Jensen's address at Macalester

and, dad, I love chemistry. The other day we were smelling up the whole lab with our experiments on gasses, and we all just about passed out. I loathe the smell of Sulfur, Calcium, and ammonia, and I'm afraid of handling acids for fear of explosions or burning but somehow I manage to get along without mishaps. ~~But~~ Mary Sanguinetti got permission to come home with me, but dad our Thanksgiving vacation doesn't begin until Wed. aft. that means I get home Thurs! Couldnt you write President Rolobough and ask him for permission for a days' cut? I'm sure he'd grant it.

Tomorrow night, we have the Monte-Cello trio recital (Miss Ulrich, Mr. Ulrich, and Miss Jones). I can hear them practicing now, and it sounds as though it were going to be good!

Last Saturday, Ruth Jenkins and I went into St. Louis to see Romeo and Juliet with

Sept. 20, 1936

LAURA JANE MUSSEY

Dearest mother,

It seems an age since I said good bye to you and Mary and I can't make myself realize that a whole summer's vacation has come and gone, and another school year has started. When you left yesterday, Mrs. U. asked me to come and see her for a minute or so which lengthened into an hour's visit. She was quite nice though as blunt as ever - rather amused me. She talked about her European trip etc. I didn't have a chance to see Mr. U. about my schedule so I

don't know just how it will be arranged. I think, however, Miss Jones is going to give me the Harmony lessons which will be nice. I do hope I won't be too pressed for time.

I can't get over how pleasant this summer has been. You and Dad were so sweet. I'm glad sis could have seen the College, and also that she was so favorably impressed with it.

A letter from you soon I hope. Ask Mary if her address at Pine Manor will be the same this year. A heartfelt love to you all -
Lottie

P.S. I am happy here. so don't worry.

Sept. 24 '36

LAURA JANE MUSSEY

Dearest mother;

Did you get my first letter that I wrote? You made no mention of it in your letter. I am having a pretty nice time, but miss you all so much. School has started in earnest and every evening I have a pile of home work to do. There is a girl here who I like quite a bit of, Mary Sanguinetti is her name. I told you I think that she plays the violin beautifully and has appeared with the string section of the Boston Symphony. She's a very nice girl and I've asked her for the holidays as she won't be able to go home. The new girls all seem a lovely bunch and I've enjoyed knowing them very much.

Well, there isn't much more to say so
will close. Tell dad I'll write him very soon.

a quick reply from you Thope -
darling. all love -

Lottie -

P.S. could you send me
some detective fiction, please?

also some more soap and Notes -
also my history notes.

Miss Adams 'younger' sister is here and
is my desk mate in chemistry, and lots
of fun. She is seen mostly with Mabel
but I see her quite a bit also!

So far I have seen the U. Bricks
only casually. They are quite nice &
quiet. As yet I haven't had a lesson with
Miss Ubrick nor seen much of her.

As I understand it I am taking Harmony
from her instead of Miss Jones. I am a
little disappointed with this arrangement
as I don't want her as teacher for two
things but I guess nothing can be done
about it. Mr. H. seems so set on my taking
from his sister - Well, maybe she'll
be alright, I can't tell!

We are taking our annual boat trip
today - bring as the dickens for us college
girls, but getting for the rest. We get back
this aft. at 5 or four hrs. more -

Have Shirley and Helen left for
Marehett yet? I imagine Lillian has
gone to the U. by this time -

#92.10 Pm
Ticket

Laura Jane Musser

Jan. 31, 1936

Dearest mother,

Even though I did call you
up Wed. night, I'll write to you
anyway to make up for my negligence.
I'm really sorry I didn't get a
letter off to you before but I
really didn't write to a soul; perhaps
that explains the reason why I
only got one letter last week!
The exams weren't so bad. I kept
my mind off of them so wasn't
worried at all about them - quite
to the surprise of all teachers concerned.
However, the cruise did have to come
and for the first couple of days I
was laid up with the most awful
cramps anyone ever had. I thought

me dread my lessons with her and
said ~~she~~ could stop whenever I felt
it was becoming too much for me
so everything is hunky-dory.

Oh yes, she said I had made faster
progress with her than anyone in
the school, and that I had nothing at
all to worry about so doesn't that
make you feel good? I sure did
me. I really didn't think she
would be so reasonable!

So you will see this sort of face
 when you come -

Do write me soon, please
all my love -

Sox-er -

I passed Eng. Lit, Hist. & Latin -

I would die; but the rest went
off very well indeed and I was none
the worse for it.

Now, about Miss Frick!
I decided that I would have it out
with her once and for all - perfectly
frank with her and all that sort
of thing so I did. Told her I
thought she was giving me too
much to do for one thing and that
a perfect lesson every week was
quite impossible! That I was
beginning to have nervous prostration
you know etc. and that I would
have to stop for a while if she
wouldn't let up. Well, she said
she wouldn't have me feel that
way for the world and the fact
that I was learning a new method
was rather new wracking and she
did want me to enjoy my music
with her and that she wouldn't have

April 6, 1936

Dearest mommy.

I suppose you wonder why you haven't heard from me for so long; but it's the usual excuse of a college girl - I have so much work. For the last few days, I've been trying to read a two vol. novel for Eng. - The History of Tom Jones and gave a report on it today which went quite well as to points, but was a little too long (and no wonder). I'd like to meet the person who could condense a two vol. novel down to a report of 5 to 10 min.

My golf clubs and the spread come - thanks to your's and Pauline's thoughtfulness, my dear; The spread was enjoyed by all who participated, namely 8 girls (this served us in lieu of a Sunday breakfast) and the compliments which come after as to the cooking would please Pauline highly - The chicken and cake were a triumph! By the way, I am commissioned by Mrs. Baiswanger to teach lessons in golf to one of the girls - have a good laugh at that - you know how I play! But we're just beginning so maybe I won't be so bad after

all.

I had a very good music lesson last Wed. and both teacher and pupil were tickled pink. I did some sight-reading in the hymnal for her and she wanted me to play hymns for Chapel the following Fri. which I did, but afterwards everyone was so very complimentary they had me blushing as red as a beet so then my dear teacher suggested I play for chapel again so I guess I will. Oh yes, she has great plans for me so she says - I'm to do a piano duet with violin (Miss Jones I guess) and a 4 hand arrangement with ~~Miss~~ ^{herself} which plus preparing for two concerts - one to be given ~~with~~ ⁱⁿ the grand recital in May - the first I believe, and one two weeks later so you see I'm going to be quite busy even if one half these things work out, also I am in a play - At last your daughter has proved her dramatic talent even if in comedy. Besides that my school work - preparation for a gee club concert - add those to gether and where is my leisure ???

Last Fri nite there was a Science recital which was simply marvelous!

In fact it was so good, the girls
are dancing at the Statler in St. Louis.

Sat. night - Melba, Sue, Lee,
Miss Ulrich, and myself went in St. Louis
to hear the Verdi Requiem with 200
voices + a quartet - Rose Bampton being a
member - It was lovely and very
impressive, and I enjoyed it immensely.

Now you know what has
happened so you can forgive me -
How are you now, darling, and
how is dad?

Please write me sooner
- than I wrote you -

Love - worlds of it -
Lottie -



Mrs. R. D. Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Oct. 1, 1936

LAURA JANE MUSSER

Dearest Mamma:

3 cheers for your letter!! how I have been waiting to hear from you! It seems ages since your last letter. I am writing this in hopes of a prompt answer - Last night I wrote Daddy a long letter to the effect of apologizing for not writing him.

I am happier all the time here; the more I get acquainted the better I like it! You asked me if I saw much of Jane. Yes, I see quite a bit of her off and on. That is, when she wants me to go walking with her etc. You see, mother Jane is a friend whom I am afraid if let loose, I'd see too much

personal toward all of them - nice of
course, but no more so than I am to
my other teachers - Incidentally, I
think I am going to enjoy Harmony
with her very much -

I'm so glad Mrs. Giles is better;
I mean to write her as soon as I
can. She's such a dear! I'm glad you
are getting your sleep - Don't worry
about me for pity sakes - I'm all right
in all sense of the word -

I wish you would send me
some good novels as I would love
to improve my reading - Could you
send me the "Good & the Bad" with reading
it in Eng. class - And some adhesive
tape!

Thank you -

With loads of love to you all
Lottie

of her and I'm afraid that wouldn't
be so good for I want to know other
people too! I think I'll be happier
that way if I don't confine my attention
to one girl too much - another thing
June smokes and I don't - you know why
so that's how it is! As I said before, I
see Mary quite a bit not too much -
Mabel, Midge, Leonore, and four or
five others so you see that I am
happy.

Now as far as the Ulrichs &
Bulrichs are concerned - I treat them
just the same as anyone else -
I get asked off and on to see them
just like anyone else. Miss Ulrich
has been very nice to me. I think
more so than last year - Of course,
I'm glad of that; but I am very im -

Could you send me Helen Jensen's
address. Also my victrola record
"Night on Bare Mountain" - in my
Chest. And: "Miss Ulrich does
not wish to be paid for teaching me
Harmony - what do you think about it?"

Feb. 29, 1936

Mommy, dearest;

My, that was such an interesting letter I got from you. I don't know when I've enjoyed a letter so much. Those descriptions of yours were so picturesque. I imagine Mexico is quite a bit like Spain - So you saw a "bull fight" how ghastly!!!

Tonight is the big Leap Year dance and Jimmy is coming up on the four o'clock train - I'm so glad he's coming and I do hope he will enjoy it. The North boys came last night. I didn't see them, however, but I probably will tonight as I have a chance to dance with them. -

Oh, by the way, I received very nice letters from Aunt Jane and Aunt Marion. Aunt Jane says that Margaret's position as teacher at Wellesley is definitely established, and they're all so happy about it. Jim has great plans for this summer. It seems that he has been asked to chaperone a group of eight boys to Europe - expenses paid in everything. Isn't that marvelous! I'm so glad for him.

Aunt Marion writes that Mad graduated in Jan. and is taking a hand at Journalism. She is wondering when to send both Dick and Mad next year!

Both aunts want me to come out and visit them this summer. Que pensez-vous de cela? I think it would

The weather is simply glorious - so nice and warm out - 60° or 70°. I had a most lovely walk the other day - and took a couple of snaps of the college which I hope will turn out well.

Now, mother, I simply won't be able to take 2 tbsps or even one of Cod-liver oil - a tsp. is all I can manage. I tried a tbsp and was taken so ill that I up & chucked so will have to cut it out for a while. I'm drinking milk tho' and that seems to agree with me. Any way I've gained 5 lbs! That's something and I feel much more peppy.

Will be so glad to see you, so you won't be here until the fourth or fifth. Mad will be Wed. or Thurs. n'est-ce pas?

be loads of fun.

Bethie Bridges writes that she had a very nice visit with Mary in the Grand Ent. station. O fall places to run into some one. She also tells me that Hestidge is having a dance with the Lawrenceville Boys School - That's news for me.

Well, mother darling, until next week -

Loads and loads of love to you both -

Lotsie -

P.S. This letter for dad too !!

My best love to Alice, the boys, 'n' Martin. Ryella way tell Alice she owes me a letter -

March 11, 1936

Mommy and daddy, dearst;

You will get this letter when you get home as I'm not sending it to Muscatine for I don't know how long you are going to stay there - I do hope you had a nice trip to aunties and that you, mother, didn't catch more cold. I can't get over your sweetness in stopping off just to see me when you were so sick. It would have been much nicer if you had felt better - Don't blame me for getting worried. I always worry about my precious parents if they're ill. I wouldn't be

but this one bids fair to last a long time - at least I hope so.

The weather was 100% yesterday aft. and I went out to study my Virgil and enjoy the beauty of nature all but a too persistent humble bee insisted on using my nose as a perch as he no doubt was attracted by the rather strong scent I accidentally doused myself with. At any rate, he pursued me all over the campus until I completely disgusted, took myself to my room to finish my work in peace.

Today the mad March wind has made its appearance and has quite cooled the atmosphere so I fear there will be no prolonged rendezvous with nature today.

human if I didn't. I know worrying doesn't get you anywhere but I couldn't contain my "sympathetic emotions"!

I have gotten out of my "blue funk" and my enthusiasm has returned. At least in my piano it vented itself to such an extent in the guise of technique practice that poor Miss Ulrich whose studio is above my practice room was driven quite wild with my incessant drumming and came down to inform me that I reminded her of a broken record, and really, if I wanted her to remain sane, I'd have to be less vehement in my practicing, so you see, mother and daddy, my spirit came and go quite suddenly

unless it be over to the tea room
and back, which has gotten to be
quite a habit with me lately -

I am trying to make arrangements
to go to "Gruas De Bergerac" tonite
as thru some misunderstanding I missed
out on last nite. Walter Hampden, you
know, plays in it - and it's supposed
to be marvelous -

Well, my darling etc etc - Parents
until next time -

Write me a nice long letter
as always -
Love



Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Monticello College—
Godfrey, Ill. —

April 11, 1936

Mommy dearest and daddy precious;

I just got your letter today and was so glad to hear from you - Really. I was wondering what had happened to you as you hadn't written me for so long. Needless to say, I was going to call you up and find out what was the matter -

Darling, thanks just loads for that lovely bath powder as an Easter gift. It is lovely and I can't tell you how much I appreciated it. I feel quite ashamed of myself for I have received so many lovely cards and have sent none myself; but don't worry all those cards are going to be acknowledged one way or another.

Now, I have some rather surprising news for you. The seemingly impossible has happened. I am going without my glasses - have been

ever since vacation ended. The first time I was caught going without them everyone remarked on my improved (?) appearance. Mr. Ulrich was particularly impressed and had a long talk with me concerning the merits of the Bates' treatment so I'm taking eye-ex when ever I have time, and have gotten two other girls interested in them so now they're more fun - I mean the ex. My eyes are stronger too! and I am hearing better! In my music, I can read notes perfectly and am generally thrilled to pieces.

As for my numbers (piano) I'm playing May nite in the try outs and made by Rachmaninoff and my own little "E. J. Dance" ^{in the final}. There ain't that knock you down ??? as for Miss U. herself, she's been adorable perhaps as a result of the healthy at. anyway, one time she asked me what on earth had I done to myself

over vacation. I had gotten over my nervousness and was going without my glasses etc? I told her I was trying to adapt a healthy at- and found it worked out admirably - The girls too are different - I still quarrel a little with Mabel - she's as spoiled as the devil but a lovable little thing at heart. However, I do wish I could have a healthy at- about playing in concerts I get sick to my stomach and feel like crying - when I get up before everyone. I tried to get out of it - but Miss D. got sorta mad so I don't know what to do for I don't want to play much.

This aft. one of the girls in my golf class and I went out and practiced driving and I and she (Grace the other) got 125-150 yds. drives with the mid-iron - we were both quite surprised at each other -

Wed. 15.

Excuse the interruption but I have been

so busy that I haven't had time to finish this. That was so nice talking to you Sun. mite but you don't know how distressed I was to hear you weren't much better. I don't like being away from home when my mummy is ill. After I called you Mrs. U. came up to my room and had the nicest talk with me. She's been the sweetest thing (perhaps another result of the healthy attitude) I was so glad she did for she cheered me up right away. I didn't feel very well that eve. as I had a sore throat. Maybe it resulted from too good a time over the week-end (Sat. night I had taken Miss Thomas, Mabel, Inger Lonstrup, Harriet Biel into the last symphony orch. [they broadcasted it so maybe you heard it] and Sun. I went into St. Louis with Mabel, Leonore, and Lucie for Easter dinner at her (Mabel's) uncle's house. We went to the Eng. Luth. church and after dinner to the movies - saw "Small Town Girl"; Then coming back I rode in the front seat with little windows open causing quite a draft.) Mon. my throat was worse so Mrs. U. stepped in and doctored me up. I got over the soreness but

the cold settled down in my chest
and gave me such pain that I came
down to the infirmary Tues. aft.

and now I'm feeling much better I
seemed to have caught it just in time.

Mrs. G. was down to see me again last
nite and told me that for the sake
of my voice which is all but gone
that I'd better drop out of the play as
I wouldn't be able to go to rehearsals
while my voice was bad. I agreed with
her because it did seem useless for me to
rehearse while I had a cold even tho' I was
awfully disappointed. But maybe it's a
good thing for I have so much else to
get ready for - The chorus tour and the
May recital (I'm so disappointed you
won't be able to come for it. I'm going
to ask the Huttigs to come. Do you
suppose they will? Incidentally they
asked me to come and see them this
Sat. I'm so sorry about Cousin
Margaret's illness - I called her up
Easter Sunday. By the way yesterday
morning I pledged for Chapel again and

again everyone was most profusely complimentary. Just between you and me I'll tell you some of the compliments. One girl remarked I played the hymns with more feeling than Miss U. Mr. U. said I played them elegantly. Connie remarked I gave them the fitting A.M.T. of Holy spirit. Really, my face was quite red!!!!

I'm getting up in a few minutes to take my music lesson. I would hate getting up except for the fact that the Gypsies start tomorrow. Miss U. was down to see me and brought me some gargling stuff which has helped my throat immensely so I feel quite fussed over.

You asked me to tell you about Eddie Galvin. Well - he came in response to my request after I had finished my lunch and took me to the Chicago theatre and came and got me after the show was over and got me safely on the train + bag + baggage. He is really quite a character and never could say enough in praise of Miss Lee. By the way one of the girls here, Virginia Evans by name knows the Worsheims

Would you please forward July 25, 1936
any mail I might get

JOHN J. MULLER

Dearest mother and family,

After a most pleasant and
amusing trip, I am enjoying my visit
with Aunt Marian highly. I am
so sorry I forgot to telegraph you
from Billings but getting up at 5 AM
certainly doesn't sharpen one's mentality
so the telegram had to wait. You got it ^{hope}

When I left you I was a little
homesick but became engrossed in a
book and my embroidery only to be rudely
interrupted by a woman and two boys
who had taken a fancy to my seat
and wished to use it. At first I

an indian pow-wow - given in honor of 'founder's day'. Any how, it was too warm so I went back to my car and read a while - going to bed with the chickens.

It makes your heart ache to see how everything has dried up. The prairies in N. D. were brown and baked as hard as a rock and all the little streams and rivers were dried up. The cattle looked pitiful as did the grain. When you see some of those little farm houses standing right out in the open prairies with no water or trees - you wonder how those people survive. At one place near the bad lands you could even see skulls lying around.

The next day, my brownies upon getting into Billings made me forget

that that there was something about the scenery outside ^{my window} that somehow amused them but later I found out it was a misunderstanding on their part.

At lunch I had a most ^{to chat with} ~~amusing~~ partner - a young Minn. U. graduate who proceeded to regale me with tale after tale of his prowess in the football squad. He kept up a steady stream of talk leaving me no chance of telling him I had heard all about it before having come from the same state.

At dinner the train stopped at some town in N. D. (where you change time) and everyone turned out to see

to tip the porter, but on taking the
the train to Casper, I found that my
section I had spent the night in was
hitched on to my train so I lost no time
in finding the porter and tipping him -
a most fortunate little occurrence -
There were two elderly women on the train
who took a fancy to my embroidery as
did many other people and talked
most entertainingly. My embroidery ~~indeed~~
attracted so many people that I
was forced to put it away to get any
privacy at all. For a time I sat out on
the observation car enjoying the mountain
scenery and getting all dusty and hot.
One place we passed, a river $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
wide had dried up completely - so
you can imagine how hot it's been
here.

LAURA JANE MUSSER

8: P.M.

Aunt Marian met me at the train, and then after a most refreshing bath we went down town to meet the Fitzpatrick friends of Aunt Marian - I don't know whether you know them or not.

Everyone has been perfectly darling and I've had a swell time so far. I a movie with Ned Fri. nite., dinner at the Shoemaker's Sat. night, and a picnic tonite. Ann Biglin was over today and she took me to the show "White Angel". She's an awfully sweet kid, and I hope I'll see more of her - I've met some awful nice boys and will meet more

tonite. This P.M. Dick killed a rattlesnake and everyone's quite excited over it. He brought the tail home as sure proof of his exploit.

The weather has been comparatively cool here and the nights cooler. Guess it's the altitude unless they're there the hot spell.

Mad has the funniest looking Ford coupe you've ever seen - a model '29 which he got second-hand - The other night he took me driving in it and really I thought I'd be jammed to pieces.

Alvin Curtis won't be home for another week yet. All reports say he is doing nicely, however.

Well, darlings, until my next - my love to you all and do hope you've had rain - Maie had plenty - Lotsie -

Oct. 13, 1936

LAURA JANE MUSSER

Dearest mother; I received your welcome letter today and maybe I wasn't ~~to~~ to get it. You rascal you! - not writing sooner. It's a wonder I write you at all. Definitely now you have my letter asking you for that information which I hope you will have time to send - Remember I went Oct. 22. Now then, about my harmony, Miss V. says I'm doing well, but somehow I liked it better at Boarding School than here, I have to do quantities of work for her!!! She's nice enough, however, the other night - in ^{my} asking for some information about my work, she asked me to come in and visit a little which I did - and she

Now mother, here's a question that may sound foolish but frankly I'm puzzled! It's about lending things to the girls, and this is it. Now, I don't mind sharing my food etc. but when it comes to lending library books that I have taken out myself, my school books that I pay for (and the books themselves are perfectly available to the other girls only they're too lazy to buy them) and money - I draw the line - then I'm called selfish and stingy. Now I never ask for money or things, and when I do use other girls' things I use them in her room - never taking them out. I sometimes ask for things and they say they haven't got them when I know they have - so I don't bother. Well one of the girls who is particularly nasty about asking and sponging on me - told her 'no', and then she told me that I wouldn't have any friends etc. and I laughed in her face for I knew the other girls too well; but as I wasn't using the book at the time I finally let her have it and told her when to bring it back and she hasn't done it yet, so you can see how it is. What would you suggest?

Another thing, my right eye has gotten all blood shot and keeps watering. I wear my glasses which help some! but could you send me any medicine

lent me a pamphlet on 'The Relation of the living spirit with the spirit of those gone on before'. It was certainly interesting and very comforting. You know I would be interested in it. I asked her if there was any possibility of my getting a copy, and she said that it was put out by a certain ^{sect} org. of which she was a member, and could not be had by anyone outside, but she gave it to me in perfect confidence. She has been quite nice outside of class and I think we have a better understanding of each other. There were certain points she told me about herself that ~~considering~~ taking these into consideration - one can forgive a lot. Today she asked June, another girl, and myself out to lunch I thought that was very nice of her!! On the other hand I make it a point to see very little of her as she is peculiar in some ways. So now you know how it is! Now, which, as I said before, I see very little of. So I'm very happy.

for it!

also my work is very hard, and sometimes I can't do all of it, so may I change after the first semester?

Thanks for writing the Pres -

Please write me soon,

Lovingly, Lotie.

L. J. M.

Jan. 10, 1936

Dear mother,

Yes, how I did love that letter you wrote me. What you said was exceedingly comforting, but oh, how I miss you both. That was a dandy vacation even tho' I did have that metabolism test, but that's over and done with.

I had a music lesson last Wed. and it must be said that I walked in the studio with many misgivings and it took every bit of will power I had to shove off the feeling. Miss Ulrich wasn't half bad and complimented me highly on my progress. Over vacation. That was so unexpected I was quite shocked and almost collapsed. Yes, mother if you only knew what tension was lifted off me! Tried to be

RIGHT AWAY

horribly enthusiastic-even went so far as to tell her (a file) that I was glad to see her. Well, it worked, and she was very nice, But I do wish I could feel at ease with her. Mrs. U. is charming, and I am beginning to like her a little.

Nathan Millstein plays tomorrow night and I think I am going. Miss Giffie is giving up her ticket to me. I thought that was so very nice of her.

Well, honey, I do miss you, and I will try to like Miss U. even tho' she is sort of a problem to get along with. Please write me soon.

Lovingly,
Gotsie -

P.S. I joined the chorus and it fits in nicely with my schedule.

Will you please send me the following articles: 1. my blue dress (afternoon) 2. my blue music notebook with Miss U's exercises. 3. Some Yodora (deodorant cream) 4. my brown bone head band + some hair ribbons; 5. Some soda 6. Hershey bars (plain) 7. My brown and gold sweaters. 8. My belts. Please send them

Dearest mother,

You can never guess where I am! I have at last succeeded in getting myself in the infirmary. Isn't that jolly? I'm so glad I can laye around and get my quota of rest. Miss U. came into see how I was getting on and brought me my school books. Wasn't that nice of her - She's been darling to me lately since you told her what you did about my music - likewise Mrs. U. She was tickled pink when I told her you were going to stop in and see her folks.

Golly, how I miss you both. It seems ages since you've been here - and what a good time we had, but mother I am going to worry about you frightfully in your crossing streets. You really need a chaperone to see that you do get safely across - Remember in St. Louis ???

And now, mother here is a very serious question to ask you. What would you say if one of your teachers in your favorite subject or rather one that you had put your whole heart and soul in ~~you were~~ told you that you had gained nothing from it and that everytime he tried to help you you always made excuses for yourself and not paying attention or trying to do good work in it? Well, that question centers around Dr. Deiswanger and his subject, Philosophy. I talked

with him yesterday - first asking him if I got on the Dean's list. He told me to find out as he couldn't tell me. I found that my name was not on the Dean's List so being awfully puzzled and a little grieved I asked him why that was. He said, Of course, I didn't get on because my marks averaged a high C instead of a B. That seemed queerer than ever for I had received exactly the same marks I had received last time 2 A's, 5 B's, + 2 C's (There was a girl who got 2 A's, 2 B's, + 2 C's and she got on this time.) so then he said I had fallen down considerably. All the teachers felt that especially Mr. Ulrich. Now, as you know I had gotten A- on my exam and an A on the only term paper we had - on orchestration, he had given me a B⁺ in music on my report (I had received a B- last time) so I had raised my mark! We hardly have any recitation in his class and as you know I can hardly hear Mr. Ulrich and he never can find time to explain the missing factors to me as he is too busy, but he tells me not to worry as I am doing good work and the other things would take care of themselves, but here was Dr. B. deliberately telling me that my thoughts were inclined to wander and I wasn't paying close attention - insinuating that I was just fiddling away my time. I wasn't taking my work seriously enough. As for his Philosophy class I hadn't gotten one thing out of it (or had given him that

impression and he could see no reason for my going down in this manner - He said all my teachers felt that I always alibied when they tried to help me. I told him (feeling very hurt) that Philosophy was my favourite subject and I was very much puzzled at my failure. I said I couldn't always understand him in class but I did the best I could - I did do my outside reading but maybe not carefully enough, and I would appreciate it very much if he would cooperate with me instead of using me in that manner - as for the teachers feeling that I alibied, I was apt to cover over my real reasons (physical handicaps) so as not to put them in any inconvenience. Sometimes I would have to tell them if I felt I was going down; one good thing; you know how I feel about my work! Then he said I was making myself too much of a burden to the faculty - i.e. that they had to treat me differently and he felt it high time to show me where I was off - Then at the end, he said he hoped he hadn't hurt me - adding injury to insult. Mother I just couldn't understand it! I thought my marks were pretty good - my exam marks too - even tho' I couldn't get an A in Philosophy - I did get a B+ but I'm not entirely sure of myself, yet in exams. But if everyone feels that way PLEASE LET ME COME HOME or just take MUSIC only - I did want to

get in Vassar but I guess it will be too hard. I
thot it would be nice for the family if they had
one girl in Vassar with a degree and such but I
guess I'm not much of a student. If you knew
the hours I have spent studying - I feel I've gotten
something out of it though and don't feel that my
work is wasted - all the other teachers except Miss
Giffin and Dr. B. help me and love to have me
talk to them and I enjoy them and love them so
and I wouldn't want them to feel that way at all -
That isn't ME. I want them all to love me! But isn't
this funny?? First the Ulrichs and now my advisor -
I know the Ulrichs and I will be fine for our mis-
understanding was fixed up - And I know things will
be alright with Dr. B. and me when we get our mis-
understanding fixed up. I think a lot of him and wouldn't
have him feel this way for the world. I wish you could
write to him and tell him. Otherwise I would like to come
home or just take music - I miss you so!!!

I will do the best I can this quarter and your
little daughter ^{will make her folks proud of her.} ~~will do the best she can~~

Please write me soon -

all my love,

Lotsie

Thank you both for the valentine so much -

I'm sorry if this letter is so bad. Please forgive it.



Mrs. R. D. Musser

90 Mc Playa Hotel
Cape Christ
San Antonio
Texas

Laura Jane Musser
Monticello College
Godfrey, Ill.



Laura Jane Musser

Feb. 18, 1936

Well, my darling mother & dad,

That was certainly a surprise getting two letters from you in one day. That certainly does deserve an answer - I'm still in the infirmary and I guess I'll be for a day or two yet. This is the most obstinate cold I've ever had. This letter will have to be kinda short because there isn't much to tell you - They've moved me upstairs to my own room for the infirmaries is freezing - I'd miss you and dad so. This is just the time I'd love to have you with me, but we can't have everything. Mrs. Ulrich has been in to see me twice. She is so dear and I do like her so much - Mrs. U was also in and she told me how much she enjoyed seeing you both and how glad she was for you to be able to see

Miss Adama was in to

her father - so those visits
cheered me up loads -

Really, mommy, I am very glad
President Rohrbough feels about me
the way he does; for a good opinion
is something I value more than
anything else. The girls too have
come in and been so nice to me.
Lenore, Sue, and Thiriette Beil particularly.

So — please write me soon
and I'll be looking forward to seeing
you again —

All my love -
Lotsie -