



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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Miss Laura Jane Tresser
Monticello College —
Godfrey —
Illinois P

Wassar College
Houghkeepsie
New York

Dear Robin -

Do you remember me? It's been so long
and so much has happened since I wrote
to you last - I do believe Spring is actually
here - we've started our Spring sports and
are all out playing tennis like the
robins after the rain.

Jean Lee Clellan is coming up this
week-end to see K. J. I was going to
have Frankie Holloway but she was in
the Infirmary and they wouldn't let

I adore Wednesdays because the radio program is so good after 7:30 — Ray Noble, The Hit Parade, etc. I also get a coke and hang over the radio in Sweet content —

I am reading "Learner's Lesson" in French — You really should read it — it's perfectly marvelous.

My musical roommate is Suzanne McCreath

her cousin — isn't that a shame? This week-end is Senior Prom and it would have been such fun taking her to it. Also "Drive" is coming, which I am dying to see —

What are you going to do this summer? I think I am going abroad — to drive through England and Scotland and then to France for two weeks before sailing home — It all sounds wonderful and I do hope it pans out.

in other words Sue — She certainly is wrapped up
in it — you would adore her — I still like the
popular brand — Have you heard Duke Ellington's
Patrol "In a Sentimental Mood" — It's
beautiful —

Well, hobie, I must go to dinner —

Write soon —

hodie of 1922

Bridges

1433 Congress Ave.
Plainfield, N.J.



Miss Laura Jane Messer
108 Highland Ave.,
Little Falls,
Minnesota



January 1, 1936 !

Dearest Lolsiz -

Happy New Year! and many Thanks
for the little bag - I know it will be
invaluable up at college when I go to
those dressy concerts - I hate to carry
large bags -

I know I haven't written and I've
no apologies - I've not even sent a
card to Bridges - My schedule is difficult,
and as I ride every day, my only
spare time is taking form in pulling

3. a three year training course in nursing -
Jeanne is at K. Gibbs - I guess you
know the rest.

This was a poor time to write - guests
are arriving so I'm forced to stop -

My love to you and your family.

You know, I love your gift so very
much - I can't thank you -

Julia

my boots off and on!

How do you like college? - Your
letters are very enthusiastic and most
interesting!

Last night I went to N.Y.C.
with some dear friends and after dinner
we went to the Paramount. Greta Grey
in person and "The Bride Comes Home"
on the screen - very funny.

Our class was over tea at both
Doris and Lala's - it reminded me of Senior
Week - but we all missed you and K.L.
and Bridges -

For news - Sue goes to New
College and sells bags in Macy's on
Saturdays - Virginia has entered for



Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Dearest Laura Jane,

I just have a few minutes to write this before I go down to the doctor to get my last typhoid shot. I can't tell you how sorry I am about Nelda. I know how grand she was from the wonderful things you said about her at school. I'm glad I got a chance to see you in Chicago too and thank you again for the bracelet. I'm going to wear it all summer. I haven't touched the piano for ages isn't that awful. Yes I have my book. The tea was grand all the kids from Chicago were there. Miss Ulrich & Miss Jones played beautifully

Miss Ulrich just asked me
if you got off safely and
I said sure. Well old dear
are you still going to write me
those boat letters? My address
is S.S. Ile de France
stateroom 1102 pier 88
French Line
New York

Write soon

Much love
June



Miss. Laura Jane Mussen
Godfrey, Illinois.

Monticello College.

Hiya, Honey!

This little gal is
feeling Perfect today!
just finished a tasty
dinner, have some
hot Latin music on
the radio, and a dish
of my old stand bys -
"ripe olives" at my
elbow! Bet your
mouth is watering!

Not much unusual
has happened in
the old home town.
At least, Nothing to
give the old

some of the water
into steam! But - I
received some lovely
yellow stripes - just
a little sun-browned!
Yeah!

"Have you seen the
"Magnificent Obsession"?
I merely stayed through
two shows and then -
they closed the theatre!
I think it was one of
the best pictures I have
ever seen! Talk about
handsome men - Robert
Taylor is the "Top"!
If he doesn't make

gossip heckless a break.
Last week the I.R.'s
had a swanky sleigh-
ride! I think I walked
miles! Honestly, some
people haven't a
heart. You'd thought I
didn't belong on the
bob! Still - as the
finishing results, I
resembled a very
wet snow man.
I hugged the stove
in the Black and White
try ing to Conserve

you have heart throbs,
well, some things' wrong
with you! Gosh, he's
really some one to dream
about!

Well, my dear, the
weather man decided
not to be merciful and
put us out of our agony.
He threw zero weather
at us until we were
ready to hibernate! Then—
he pulled a fast one and
gave us a few days of
20-30° above! But, he
hasn't got me fooled!
I'm hang'ing on to

my winter coat until
I see flowers - not in
a night here, either!

Well - Easter vacation
isn't far off! Our big hearted
school is giving us two
whole days off! just
cutting three days! Boy -
if this is the land of
the free and a democracy
Little Falls must have
been missed! This
d--- school, oh well,
what's the use! Only
two more months and
the last week I'm
going to be T. N. T.!

Night oil next year. Dad
wants me near home, so -
I'm sure I don't know
where I'll be. Doesn't
make much difference
to me - really.

Oh, gosh - I've got
to mail a letter to
Russell. He's in Africa
at present. So - I'll
drop this off at
the same time.

Take time off
and write to

I'm going to raise so
much fuss that they
won't know what to
think!

This summer you
and I must put our
heads together and
give the old boys,
about our fair City,
some thing to talk
about! Some thing
real juicy, not
any thing common!

Well - I still don't
know where I'll be
burning the mid -

"Yours truly": And—
I'll drag out a pen
and answer if,
this school hasn't
known me with
all these fool exams
Coming up.

Hatsa
one,

P.S. Be have ^{Shirley} yourself.

P.P.S. Have a good time.

P.P.P.S. I'm wondering—
Can you do both?

I'll leave it to
you !!



Miss Laura Jane Mueser
Monticello College
Madison, Wis.

Dearest Lotsie,

Well, darling, here I am at home taking care of Mother. You didn't know that I was a first class nurse, did you? Mother has had a rather bad case of acute indigestion, and so, I have been home three days looking after her.

Last night I thought it was my last night. The wind blew so hard that I thought the house was going to fall in pieces. All the traffic is tied up for miles around. The roads are so drifted that no one can get through. Dad went down to the Cities yesterday and had to stay all night. This noon he called from Elk River saying the roads were so bad that the police were not letting any cars through. All the buses are stalled. Nice weather for March, don't you think? I'm sure Dad won't get in to any mischief in that exciting little town! I'd probably go to sleep!

I've been rather busy practicing for another play. Now, don't think I've gone Hollywood Minded. We're going to have a play contest and our school is putting on three plays and then picking the best one to go to the contest in Wadeana. So - I've had to learn more lines and trot up to my pride and joy (yeah) most every other evening.

Well, the mailman was just here and left me one letter, but none from you. Are you all out of materials? I can't believe you study so hard that you run out of ink and paper and can't drop me a line or two. But, I'm big hearted. I'll give you a few more days. So - get ambitious!

Sun's just come out to tease us for a while. You know, make us think Spring is on her way and then startle us with a heck of a snow storm.

Well, B-I-G news! I got on the National Honor Society! Yes, I can see your mouth drop wide open. But you aren't any more surprised than I was. I never thought those lovely people in the Office would allow me to get on, but some thing must have happened. I really don't care much about the so called honor it is supposed to represent, but Mother wanted me to get on so badly that I'm glad I made it.

Dear me, I've gone this far and I haven't asked you how you are and what has happened. Well, how about it? What has happened? I haven't heard that you have been expelled, but I figured you might have hushed it up. Now, take my advice. Don't get expelled more than twice, they might really mean it some time. Gosh, I hope you don't leave this letter lying around. If the Dean got a hold of it, well, she might take me seriously. And - then you might come flying home to Mother and Dad.

Have you seen "Follow the Fleet"? I want to see it. I saw the shorts and it looked very promising. I suppose Bill and I will go to - tomorrow night. Some good show is coming Sunday and Monday. I forget what it is, but I do remember that I want to see it. How about a date? You hop a plane and come out. That would be good!

Sad news now. You remember Albert Barton, don't you? He died last week at Rochester. He had Septic Meningitis, so he really didn't have a chance. Well, they got a plane to take him to Rochester. Dr. Roberts went with him, and it crashed some where New Ulm. Dr. Roberts had several ribs broken and was pretty well shaken up. Albert wasn't hurt, I guess. But he died soon after he reached the hospital.

The Community Players are putting a play on March 16, I think. More plays and more plays, We'll soon get our fill.

Well, it won't be long before we're graduating. I guess I'm to have my pictures taken this week. Mr. Nelson came up last week and bored us for an hour or so. I hate to think of sitting before the man behind the black hood and wait for the birdie to hop out! I always take such horrid pictures.

Well, to-morrow I think I can go to school. I do get tired of sitting around the house. I've read until there isn't a thing left to read.

To-day is Thursday so that means I will have to get my own supper to-night. I might bake a cake this afternoon, if I get ambitious. I have the best recipe. You wait until you get home. I'll get you out in the kitchen and we'll make a snazzy cake.

I really think I'd better stop. I think Mother will go to sleep if I stop this tapping.

All my love,

Shirley

A little late, but don't mind, please!

Dearest Lottie!

Hi ya old honeybunch! How's
the world treating you? Oh, I
know I should be no less than
horse whipped for not answering
sooner, but I'll do better next
time - honest I will! (mistful note,
catch it?)

Well, you should have been
here for our play! Soul rending
drama! But, no kidding -
the people liked it. I'm giving
it again next Thursday. It
was so cold that many who
wanted to come couldn't. So -
we're repeating it.

Oh yes, did you know
your home was robbed
last week? Now, now, don't
get excited and wire home!

A gal who lives on Second
Street S.E. looted the R. W. Muser
home and ran off with
some goods of 1900. I don't

know how much of an award
they're offering! No foolin' - I
wore a white dress of your
mother's for the play. One we
used to dress up in - remember??

Boy, has it been cold! Had -
woman, I walked to school when
it was "46° below". Oh - I'm not
crazy - I just didn't know how
cold it was on - I assure
you - I would have snuggled
down deeper into the blankets!
And that's not all - the papers and
radio say there's a cold wave
heading for the northern part of
the state this week! Just a
little "chilly" last week, I suppose!

All semesters are over and -
I feel more comfortable. (Just a
wee bit - don't be alarmed!)

Hee, woman, am I tired!
Last night was the President's Ball -
so one little gal didn't get home
till the wee, wee hours

of the morning! As a matter of fact - I
had only about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours of sleep!

The music was grand and the
floor wasn't too slippery so -
I had a marvellous time.

now for gossip bits! Let's see -!!
Majorie and Woody have split
again. Over me I guess - she's
mad 'cause he danced so much
with me and because Tommy
and he gave Irene and I a
"round - about - ride" home from
the show last Friday night. It makes
me disgusted with some of these
jealous people - but, what can
you do? Every time I so much as
sympathize to Woody she gets mad! Nice?!

Billy and I are still going
about - but I went to the dance
last night with some one else - heh, heh!

I got a bid to a dance up in
Duluth this next month - 24 - . Some
gale affair, I guess. I hope I
can go!! ?? Too cold to huck-hike!!

a few weeks ago I went over to Bank
Centre to have dinner with a fellow -
don't think you know him - Bob
Vandersteeg - "tall, dark, and handsome".
I'm not stealing Mac's line -
but he really suits that description!

Chilton Bluff asked to take
me to the game last week -
but I had a date - remember
dear old Chilton!! me oh my!

Wash, it's time for my
daily bout with Bazzy in
Chemistry - so - by by old dear
English accent to you! - drop me
a line soon - nice long one!

Lotsa love,

Shirley.

P.S. Could you read it???!!

P. S. Honest! am I shocked! Here I
find I didn't mail that long missive!
mortified? see say! It's a bit stale
now - but see send it anyway!
But I do promise see answer your
next letter within five days! Now -
no stallin' on your Part!!! see
be watching the mail-box!

Jatza
over,

Shirley



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Monticello College
Godfrey, Illinois



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minn.

Thursday

Dear Laura Jane,

Just as I feared, when you extended your kind invitation to me this afternoon, I shall not be able to accept as we have some guests staying with us from St. Louis and as one of them is a girl my age, I shall have to stay home to entertain her. I was hoping against hope when you asked me that I would be allowed to come anyhow and did not want to refuse immediately if there was really any chance of my accepting, but there isn't.

My penmanship has done anything but improve by a year's hard work at college as you can

very well see, and then
doesn't seem to be very
much I can do about it
although I honestly do
try to better it.

Thank you just the
same for the invitation
Laura Jane and I must
see you again after your
trip out West. Be sure
to call me if you ever
come into Minneapolis
again and we will have
lunch together. Have a
nice visit and do write
me some time soon, wont
you!

Give my best regards to
your mother and father.

Lots of love,

Rhoda

Emerson Hall
732 Emerson Street
Evanston, Ill.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
608 Wyland Avenue
Little Falls
Minnesota

Emerson Hall
732 Emerson Street
Evanston, Illinois.
July 5, 1936.

Dear Laura Jane,

Really I haven't forgotten you! This past season was a terrifically busy one, & my correspondence was sadly neglected.

This summer I am attending the School of Music at Northwestern. It is a grand place with such a friendly atmosphere. The campus is beautiful & is situated by Lake Michigan, - very cool looking, & robin egg blue in color. So far the weather has been deliciously cool, - grand for study.

My piano work requires three lessons a week, - & not less than three hours practice a day. Mr. Waniesh is very different from Mr. Feneques. He demands a terrific tempo, & by the time my lesson is over I feel like a deflated balloon. He also demands memory of every new piece - at its first lesson, - so in two weeks I have completed one piece of 35 pages, & 15 pages of the new. Tuesday, I'm to play the former selection for the orchestral director here, - for the number is new to him. I don't think it will mean an orchestral performance.

My class in Modern Music is steep & but fascinating. The instructor "knows his stuff." Choir conducting, my elective, is fun. - I'm very interested in choirs.

Bob Sheldon is here also. He played perfectly beautiful accompaniments at a recent recital. Now & then we have musical evenings & perform for each other,

or play Brahms symphonies in duet form.
He has written a lovely piano sonata.

Doreen Conner gave a recital at Alexandria before I left home. It was her first solo recital. She played very well, & received many fine compliments. She really has talent, style, & much grace. This was her program.

- early classics.*
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| I. Janáček - | Ramsey - Thompson |
| Kings Hunting Jig - | John Bull |
| Prelude No. 5 - | Bach |
| Sydney Ponds - | Haydn. |
| Somerville - | Bronkahl |
| II. Malaguena - | Albion Pinto |
| ^{Maid, Little Soldier} | Salmon |
| The Swan - | Mac Dowell. |
| In Autumn - | |
- Moderns.*

III

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Maiden's Wish - | Chopin - Siegf |
| Romance 7 th - | Schumann |
| German Dance - No. 1. | Beethoven - Weiss |

My cousin, Ruth Turay, from Seattle is teaching for me now. She is a fine pianist, & has been studying with me since March. I think she'll remain until December.

My choir this year was excellent! We acquired quite a reputation, - & went on a few trips. I don't believe I'll ever have as fine a group again. Mr. Waugh said it was the best "around those parts". The choir numbered 32 - 10 sopranos, 9 altos, 6 tenors, & 6 bass. Then the organist & I. We had such good times together.

Laura Jones, I want to ask you something. When I was in Alexandria some saw said

they had seen an obituary notice for Golda Rosoff. Did Golda die, - do you know? I hope it isn't true, but if so, I should like to write the family. I know that she had been ill with arthritis but didn't know it was serious. It would be very sad for one so young & talented to die, - it just doesn't seem possible. I should be very grateful if you could tell me about it, for naturally I shouldn't like to write her family unless it were true. When I heard about it I felt so peculiar - like a bad dream, & hoped that the person had confused the name.

How was your work this past year? Tell me something about it? Are you still "at" the piano? How goes it?

Marianne had very few lessons this past year. She was so busy at school with accompanying. I hope she can take more regularly next year.

How are Mother & Dad, & Mary? I haven't seen them for ages. Do greet them from me.

After I leave Northwestern, July 31, I shall go to Lake Darling, Alexandria for two weeks. (My cousin & I.) We expect to have a grand time as we have several friends there. Our cottage is darling - very "petite", but cute. Then two more weeks & "presto" school again - or rather, teaching for me. I may come back to Northwestern during the second semester.

My room-mate is a sweet girl from Missouri. We have similar tastes in colors, swings, etc. & get along beautifully. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of our house is southern. Maybe I'll acquire an accent!

There are over 450 music students here, & over 3,000 in this campus. I understand it's the largest enrollment for the music school, - exceeded the expectations.

Ravinia will provide symphony concerts with several guest conductors. I hope I can hear a few.

And, Eugene Ormandy leaves Minneapolis for Philadelphia. He certainly brought our orchestra into a first class rating, & we will miss him. What we lose Philadelphia will gain. I'm afraid that Gabriell Tenzes will be lonesome too. They were such good friends.

I hear occasionally from Madame Elbogen. She really was a sweet person.

And now I must be about my business.

Please let me know about Golda.

Tell me about yourself, plans, etc. I shall be very glad to hear from you.

Love,

Drene Johnson.



September 14, 1936

Dear Laura Jane,

Thankyou for your letter with all the interesting news about yourself. I also appreciated the information concerning Golda.

You asked about Bob Skeldow. He has several talents, and I believe he has decided to concentrate on accompanying and song coaching. One of the very critical guest teachers at Northwestern this summer told me that he was amazed at Bob's beautiful accompaniments. He felt Bob should take this up as a professional career in New York. This winter he will teach piano and Modern Music at the De Pauw University at Greencastle, Indiana. He has written some fine compositions, and had work under Goldmark in New York.

Goldmark is the son of the famous Karl Goldmark. I haven't a list of all Carl's works but he has written several songs, 4 piano sonatas, other pieces, chorales for chorus, string quartets, & works for orchestra. That's that!

As for myself, - I enjoyed Northwestern very much and hope I can go back soon and complete my work. Only one semester & one summer school are left.

Ruthie, my cousin, & I spent "two weeks vacation" at one of the lakes near Alexandria. We enjoyed ourselves immensely both in town and at the lake. Both of us have friends there & we were entertained royally.

Since then, Doreen Conner & I gave a demonstration on the "Technique of Teaching" - at a district piano-clinic. Doreen is playing excellently and will give a recital this fall. She and two others will also participate in the state contest.

My cousin is also working on a recital which will include the Bach B⁺ Partita, Chopin Rondos in C minor, Brahms Adagio in B minor, and a group of short moderns. Ruthie goes back to Seattle the first of December, and the recital will be given sometime in November.

Ruthie insists that I give a recital before she leaves, - so I may. It will include three sonatas by Scarlatti (very short), the Liszt Sonata, some Schumann, Brahms, & Chopin, & 3 moderns. That means practice!

Pupils are now beginning to resume their lessons. August was rather dull, - that is, after I came home to work. Most pupils take regularly, and I know they will do so unless the winter is too severe. I hope it won't be!

And now I must prepare for the studio.

Write me again when you have time.

Love,

Doreen Johnson

Greet Mr. & Mrs. Musser.

529 Grant Pl.
Chicago.



Miss L. J. Mueser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Dear Laura Jane:

For a few days I have been searching for a post-card on which to scribble some words of welcome to you. As you see,

I have failed thus far!

Having found this
note-paper, however, I
should like to use it
to tell you how happy
I am to have the pros-
pect of seeing you often

and working with you!
Moreover, you will be
interested to know that
my three days here have
more harmonious and
stimulating than one
does hope they could
ever be! President Robt-

baugh's ideas and his vigor
in applying them should
make this school an un-
usual one.

Please give your mother,
father, and sister my most
cordial greetings! (And please
pardon the pencil I substituted
for my thirsty fountain-pen!)

See you soon! Sincerely
Miriam A. Ulrich

Dear Fatsie:

a note
instead of the post-card
I had promised you,
having forgotten about
the letter while there
was still time for it!

Such a busy
week as this is! I am
beginning to long for
the simple pleasures
of country-life. I had
wanted to return to

Godfrey Saturday, but
find now that I must
postpone my departure
one more day in order
to squeeze in a bit
more city-activity.

I heard Miss Hess
in recital Wednesday;
and having sat in the
first row on the main
floor for purposes of
observation, I saw a
good deal of her as well!
A critic spoke of her
later as the "great
English pianist." And

so she is from a
point of view of
facility, speed and
poetic feeling. In-
cidentally, feminine
though she can appear,
the lady does great
while performing! - - -
Encores until 11:15!

Grainger plays
with the Orchestra
tomorrow.

My eyes seem to
be closing for the night.
My note had better
follow suit, brief

though it is.... But
a promise is a promise!

My warm greetings
to you all!

Safe, pleasant
journey!

Until Sunday!

Miriam Ulrich

March 26.

Dear Lotsie:

How encouraging to hear about your sports activity! you cannot fail to profit tremendously by it if you persist in working out and trying to apply the ideas we have discussed this last year.

I, alas, am fortunate nowadays if I find time for a few setting-up exercises.

But I am the gainer otherwise.

For I am enjoying some really inspiring voice lessons, to say nothing of piano work. Six lessons a week, taken very often in the evening in order to have my whole day for

practising, keeps me too busy to see many people or attend concerts — of which we are having an abundance, three different symphony orchestras!

Interesting about the gentlemen at Boulder! Play the things you know best, of course, so that you are most free to devote your

attention to musical feeling when you play! He will probably show interest in nothing but your interpretations, so don't be disappointed if he tells you musical things which you may know but are technically incapable of demonstrating at this stage! Obviously, a very receptive, alert attitude toward his criticisms will make him more eager to help you! Warm greetings to you all! M. Ulrich



Mrs Laura Jane Messer

Monticello College

Godfrey

Illinois

The Hartbridge School
Plainfield, New Jersey

Laura Jane dear:— How are you
getting on as the year draws to a
close? And are you still thinking of
making a transfer for your junior
and senior years?

Your mother wrote that you were happy
and interested and successful, but that
you wanted to be in the East and might
try for Vassar for 1937-1938. As I
wrote last fall, be sure to keep the
door of any college you are considering

in line with your work so that you will
take the right subjects for credit.

It has been a lovely year at school.
We have fifteen very nice girls who fit in
loftily well, and five young teachers in addition.
Mrs. Shurey and Mrs. Jean May. They are
all delightful and fit the jobs a good time.
Mrs. Thurston, who has taken Mrs. Clippard's
place, lives at Oakwood and has all sorts of
ideas - among them a large stone fire place, behind
the summer house, on which they can cook picnic
suppers in bad weather.

The Oakwood Club gave

for their play, and the Dry School Club gave the dinner,
which they did with great spirit and success - I have

asked our a better audience performance. Why you play

two next Wednesday evening, and Emma's the theme for a per-
formance the following week. Mrs. Shurey gave us a Bookman
needed the evening. Oh this was good and well on 2000.

And the girls have just raised over 114 pounds \$250 for a picture
for Pine Mountain which, added to \$51 from Saturday, makes us
less than \$60 short. We had planned to fix only \$30, but we need
more so fast that the girls went on working. They also raise \$40 for
Genevieve! So are their needs to you?

Mrs. Wetherill and I had a fine time visiting in December
during the ship holiday, and saw the wonderful the West and with
Orestes' Middleton at Wethersley - as N. W. D. meeting.

I should like to see truly with an injured ankle, and then can
I see as the 12 man in the hand I believe and many of our best

4 weeks. a real experience for me. But I'm in
splendid shape now, and Mrs. Ulfeldsen is much
better. If we can visit our Scandinavian camp, we
shall go to England for the summer.

I have now become a better man for plays in
New York. The acting in a number of them is
superb. Thursday we have an imitation of the
Idiot's Delight, and I hope that will be good too.

Write to me when you can and for me all
the news about yourself and Mary. I'm missing
your mother's letters. She is such a lovely person.

With love from us all,
L. H. Berlioz

April 13, 1936.

P.S. I forgot to mention that Emma Jo-
hal offered to visit last month - or better
in 33 years! She is quite all right now.
A.H.



FOWLER LAKE ~
OCONOMOWOC, WIS. 36717.

POST



CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS

Greetings to you
all, folks! Hope
you're resting as
successfully as I
am! I had no idea
that I was such an
expert lounge!
Meriam Ulrich

Miss F. J. Musser
Little Falls,
Minnesota.

529 Grant Pl.
Chicago



Miss Laura Jane Muxser

Little Falls,

Minnesota.

Air Mail

Dear Fotsie: Do phone
me - Lincoln 5247 -
as soon as you arrive.
But I may not be
home, Fotsie, for de-
pending on certain chap-

errand duties and a
tentative Sunday evening
engagement at Goldrey, I
may have to take the
11:40 noon train south.

It makes me ill, for
Mory Rosenthal is playing
at Orchestra Hall Sun.
at 3:30. He's one of our

few great pianists and
is an old man who
can't play much longer.

Life — and Mentelle —
must go on, however!
You'll at least speak
to my mother when you
phone; and if I should
not be home surely you

can have fun by your-
self. A good book for com-
panionship while you eat,
Art Institute or a good
movie or the reading-room
at the Library later - these
are ingredients for a very
pleasant afternoon, don't
you think? I maybe I'll be
able to take the 4:15, tho; in which
case I'll see ^{you} before, I suppose.
Greetings to the whole family!



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Thursday

Dearest Hotsie,

Thank you very much for your letter. I was delighted to get it, but much shocked by the news of Goeda's death. It is too bad for her family and her friends.

We are all at South Dennis, on the Cape, now. The weather is pleasant, the swimming wonderful, and everything is just the way I like it. You should have seen us as we loaded up our ancient Essex to leave. Each of the children was characteristically laden. Jimmy had a boat-hook five feet long under the arm, a ship's lantern (these for his sailboat), two books on sailing and the history of sailing ships, and an accordion which he recently bought, second-hand, for a dollar. Barbara had a doll in each hand and a toy sailboat. I had about six books of various sizes, some letter-writing apparatus, and the lunch. After long debate, mother and Daddy had decided to take our cat, Cassius (because he "hatha lean and hungry look" you know) with us. He was put in a large cotton bag with his head sticking out, and entrusted to mother. We finally started about an hour later than we had planned.

The Brackett family is accustomed to spend its summer vacations on the Cape, but not as far down as this. We usually go to Wauham. Dennis is nice, however. The water is warm for swimming. The little towns nearby are picturesque and pretty. Sometime you must come to visit us. Perhaps you would like the Cape. The trees are small outside the towns and the soil very sandy. Yet there are many beautiful places that anyone would find distinctive and charming.

I spoke of Jim's marvelous (?) new accordion above. He bought it several days before I got home and is very proud of it. It is just one more addition to a long line of semi-

or anti-musical instruments. He also owns a chromatic harmonica, a bugle, and a clarinet. I think that this latest addition is really the most painful to listen to of the lot. It has several missing keys. Jimmy plays "Carry me Back to old Virginia" on it very soulfully.

Since I got home I have seen Iwannie several times and most of the other Massachusettses at least once. Iwan is happy, as she always is. Her oddest brother, Lewis, is Jimmy's particular crony (Is that spelled right?!!) Janie Waggoner has gone away to be counsellor at a camp in Maine. I hope to have a letter from her some time, but she has not written yet.

Have you heard the sad news about Miss Maab's Barnett? She will not be back to Monticello next year. For the preparatory school especially she is a great loss. We Newtonians went to meet her train when she arrived, several days after us, from St. Louis. She has now left for England. She wrote the five of us a very kind letter, like herself, to tell us about it. She said that she didn't "have the heart" to tell us all in class or later to our faces! Next year she will teach in Colby Junior College in New Hampshire, where she will be better paid, and be nearer home. She sat at "our table" when we chose our own tables and teachers. We loved her. I hope for a good English teacher to take her place.

Also, Mr. Hatch won't be there next year. I can't say that I feel any deep regret, but he was, I thought, a good teacher insofar as he made our class interesting and we learned much. I hope too for a good Latin teacher.

I am sorry that "Eppie" won't be back. I heard from her this morning.

Have a good vacation in the West.

Much love from
Bernie

South Dennis, Massachusetts

No. 3 House
Roe-dean School
Brighton, Sussex, England
October 24, 1931.

My dear Hottie,

Will you ever forgive me for neglecting you so long? I do thank you for your telegram. It was a grand surprise. I have often thought of you and I would have written before this, but it is very difficult to keep my correspondence as prompt as it should be here. The only chance we have to write letters - so minutely are our days planned - comes on Sunday afternoons between two and four. Sometimes I manage to write one in odd moments during the week, or an extra one after church and before dinner on Sundays, but that isn't much keep. Mother and Daddy get my first Sunday letter and there is never half enough time left!

I love England quite as much as you did! The McKeays told me about meeting you all. Didn't you love them? I stayed with them for ten days before going down to Roe-dean. During that time we went to Oxford one day and to London another, and visited all the picturesque neighboring towns. Sometimes when Joyce had a fitting at the dressmaker's or something like that I took her bike, which belonged to Mrs. McKeay when she was a little girl too, and started off on an exploring trip of my own - with an apple in each pocket. Somehow or other I always managed to get back. That part of Berkshire where they live is beautiful, and I'm so glad the English ride bikes all the time.

Roe-dean is also very pleasant. In some way it is all that could be hoped. In others, I think it compares rather unfavorably with Monticello. The best things about it are its location high above the sea, the subjects I am studying, the excellence of the school singing, and the religious services. It is in a very pretty place. The downs are behind us and the salt waves before us, with France just beyond them. There are no trees, which is a pity, but nearby are several dear little villages with 16th Century houses, duck-ponds, and all the delights a country village can offer, including trees. Brighton itself is a dump, to put it baldly. It is one of the nearest sea places to London, and attracts a very ordinary class of people. The water front is covered with boarding houses of every size, shape, and description. Someone told me the other day that Brighton was very fashionable in the days of George III. (of blessed memory!), and

That Bynon once brought one of his numerous lady-friends down here to spend the week-end. I'm afraid his example has been followed ever since.

I'm delighted with my work, which keeps me well occupied. I am "specializing" in English and History, with four courses in each, and I have one latin course and one French course as well. I've no time for German, and I felt that I should take up French again before I forgot it all. As it is I think of everything in German, which is easy in a French class. I'm taking no music but I have joined the choir.

Nothing could be much more difficult to one who is not an Episcopalian than to penetrate the mystery of how to find the place in the Prayer Book. I am at last beginning to learn. as for the choir, that is ten times worse, for I have to learn chants and responses. Everything is sung - even the Amen and the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. As a matter of fact I love the Anglican Service; my only regret is that the vicars are very apt to mumble the words so familiar to them as if they meant nothing. To the girls they don't mean much. Outwardly they are very devout, but conversations at tea have revealed the unastonishing fact that they don't care two cents (or, since I am in England, I'll say twopenny!) for what they're saying. It's too bad, for we are singing pure poetry - "Oh Lord Bless Thine Inheritance. Govern them, and lift them up forever," and many other lines as nice as those. I like the idea of being "lifted up forever"!

As a whole Rocelean sings better than Monticello did. There is no dearth of sopranos here. Remember how Mr. Uenich told us crooning had ruined soprano voices? They croon less here; perhaps that is the explanation, though I doubt it. None of the music mistresses seems as able as ours, however. Though the choir is very large and full of fine voices they are poorly trained, and no one directs them in the Sunday services. The piano teacher here is rather poor after Miss Uenich!

But I do not find the English the least bit unfriendly, as Americans say they are. They are most kind and hospitable, I think, and have been grossly misjudged!

I think of you all so often. I can see little Falls in my mind's eye as clearly as the day I climbed off the train in a snowstorm. My visit with you is one of my most pleasant memories. Please remember me to your brother and Father and Hebe and your sister. I love you all so much.

P.S. Thanks for the grand long letter from Italy.

Con

Monticello College
Godfrey, Illinois

George Irwin Rohrbough
President

August 25, 1936

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls, Minnesota

Dear Miss Musser:

Monticello is anticipating your arrival in September. It will be a splendid year for all of us with the old school full and everything in fine shape.

You will want various items of information in order to make suitable preparations for the coming year at school. You have been tentatively assigned to Single Room No. 25 on the first floor. The walls are painted in cream color. There is one window, size 46x86". As you will remember the school provides bed linen and also the table linen. You are responsible for your own blankets, bedspreads, draperies, rugs and bath linen. The room would probably be best suited by a rug, size 2x4'.

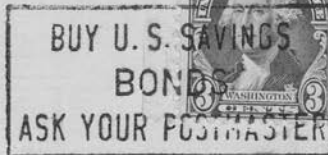
Students should provide themselves with sufficient funds on the opening day to care for the expense of books, of physical education costumes, and room furnishings. The school bank for surplus funds will be maintained again this year.

You should report at Monticello on September 15, before noon if possible; no one is expected to arrive later than six o'clock in the afternoon. You will be met at the train in St. Louis, in Alton (College Avenue), or in Godfrey. Please notify us of the definite hour and place of your arrival at least forty-eight hours in advance. Kindly attach one of the enclosed labels to each piece of luggage that you bring or send.

School years are very important. Please come with your mind made up to do a good year's work and to be a credit to yourself, your school and your family. Monticello will do the rest.

Faithfully yours,

George W. Rohrbough



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Mabel Muskoff
864 Newport Ave
Webster Groves, Mo.

June 27, 1936

Dearest Lotsie,

At the present time I am on the river steamer "The Presidents". This boat is much larger and much nicer than the "Edgewater". We left St Louis at 2:30 and will arrive at 7:30. My cousin is staying at my uncle's with me and she has never been on a river boat before.

I was so sorry to hear about Golda. you have my deepest regrets. What was the cause of her sudden death? I had always hoped that I would meet her someday, for I had become to admire her greatly because of the way you had spoken of her.

I mailed the curls, you asked me to get you, the other day. Did you receive them O.K.? Also my uncle was wondering if you ever received your box of clothes?

Well the boat is about to dock so I will finish your letter the first chance I get.

June 29, 1936

Well dear Lotsie one whole day has passed since I stopped writing this letter to you. so I will try and finish it this time.

fan and try to keep but it is impossible.
another thing which aids us in keeping
cool is eating ice cubes.

I am going to get the pictures from
the negatives you lent me, tonight, so
I will enclose your negatives in this
letter. Thank you so much and I
am sorry I kept them so long.

How are your mother and father?
I hope this epistle finds them both
very well and you also dear Lottie.
Well I must close now and begin
to get dinner for it won't be long before
my uncle will be home. Write me
soon and tell me all the news.

Love to all -

Mabel.

Have you decided yet as to whether you
will go back to Monticello next year or
not? I have slightly changed my mind
since I left school, for I am seriously
thinking of transferring to a coed school
as I believe that one year in a girls
boarding school was quite enough.

Lorraine is going to summer school
at Washington University here in St Louis.
She came out to see me yesterday and
we had a real nice visit. She is
taking a year of college French in six weeks.
That sure is going some, don't you think
she has classes from 7:30 to 9:00 and from 10:30
to 12:00 every day.

I received a letter from Miss Burroughs
last week, she said that Mrs. Robb's
father died not long ago, and that she
was doing some field work in Missouri.
She said that Miss Thomas was staying
away in Iowa City and she had classes
from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. every day. That sure
is a heavy schedule, don't you think?

It certainly is hot down here, in
fact it is so hot down here that about
all you can do is sit in front of a



BUY U.S. SAVINGS
BOND
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER



Norma Adams -

Miss Laura Jane Tyross,
Monticello College,
Godfrey,
Ill.

95 Colberg Ave.,
Fosmendale, Mass.;
January 3, 1936.

Dear Laura Jane,

Will you please
forgive me for sending my
thankyou so late and for
sending it to the school
instead of to Little Falls?

In the rush of those last-
days before vacation I
forgot to buy an address
book, and I was afraid
just Little Falls, Minnesota,

busy two weeks, full of shopping
and work in the Harvard library
and visiting with people at
Mount Holyoke. I remembered
to ask about your cousin, Miss
Taylor, but those whom I asked
had not known her at all
well. Of course, a large part
of the family were away from
South Hadley.

Thank you again for your
thoughtfulness, and a Happy
New Year!

would not reach you.

Even before I opened the box
I knew that the handkerchiefs
would be lovely - Young & Winkler's
handkerchiefs always are - but
the two which you gave me
are particularly lovely. I have
taken great pride in showing
them among my Christmas
gifts.

I hope that you have had
as happy a vacation as I
have had. For me it was a

Affectionately yours,
Thomas Adams.

B

May 24 - '36
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Laura Jane,

I surely was surprised but very pleased when I received your letter Friday, the 22nd.

I'm not staying at the "Y" any more, due to the fact that my school is out and I have found employment; therefore, I have moved closer to the office. I'm working for the "Young Engineering Co," but I don't think I'm going to like the work very well due to the fact that it is not associated with Diesel, which I am very interested in. So, for the present, I guess I'll just have to bear the dislike until the time

By the time you receive this letter, I suppose you'll be "knee deep" in your final examinations. You surely have quite a number to contend with — well, heris luck to you! I'm very sure that you'll come out at the head of the class, for you always have. I might add that I did quite well in my finals, I received an "A" average — so I was quite pleased over the results.

Now Lotie, I hope you will understand my predicament, concerning my reason for not being able to accept your much desired invitation. I had a marvelous time with you the time I was able to attend such a function at your college. Nothing would please me more than to be able to be with you on June 5th — but again,

unfortunate conditions on my part rule my actions.

Would it be asking too much to have you write and tell me about the dance and also how your finals came out? I'd love to hear from you again in the near future.

Again may I express my deepest appreciation to you for everything.

Sincerely,
Jimmy

P.S. My new address is:

1618 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois.

may come when I might be fortunate enough to find a job which I am interested in.

Lotsie, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the invitation which you so graciously offered me. But, as you can readily see, conditions make it imperative that I, much to my dislike, must decline such a perfect week-end as was meant to be. You see I'm just a poor working man now, who has to "put in" six days a week on "the job," and also "try to make ends meet" without assistance from the "pater."

I surely do envy your prospects for the coming vacation, may I offer you the best of luck in your travels. I wish I were in a position to do likewise, but I guess "it just wasn't meant to be."

James A. Butcher
1618 Diversey Pkwy.
Chicago, Illinois



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BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

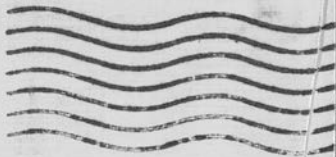


Miss Laura Jane Musser
Monticello College
Godfrey, Illinois

Esther F. Barnett
1391 West Decatur Street
Decatur, Illinois



Miss Laura Jane Musser
~~1425 Pacific Terrace~~
~~Klamath Falls, Oregon~~
Little Falls
Minnesota



1391 West Decatur Street
Decatur, Illinois
August 12, 1936

Dear Laura Jane:

Yes, I received your first letter, but when it is a question of letter writing, I'm usually on that road, that's paved with good intentions. Please forgive me this time, and I'll try to reform.

You asked about Miss Adams' address. She is to be at home until the 17th when her Oberlin friends are coming to take her for a short motor trip to New Hampshire. However, she

did spend a week in South
Hadley and a week end in
New York. Perhaps your
letter arrived in Roslindale
when she was on one of these
trips.

I'm so glad to hear that
you're not taking life too
seriously this summer. Every-
thing else seems more fascinating
to me than working on my
thesis although it is my
daily occupation. Today, I
was wicked and went shopping
as it was our semi-annual
dollar day. Needless to say,
I bought the stores out complet-
ely with two night gowns, two
pairs of stockings and a pair

of black kid gloves. My
wildest adventures this
summer have been a four
days trip to Kansas City, two
days in Champaign, and a
day in Chicago.

No doubt you have heard
that I am not returning to
Monticello, due to the fact that
Mr. Rolvrough is eliminating
Spanish with the possible
exception of the elementary
work. I have accepted a
position in Southern College
for Women at Petersburg,
Virginia. The students there
automatically become members
of the Country Club. The
school gives a series of seven

historical pilgrimages through
Virginia. Of course, I am
looking forward to these.

How I shall miss my
pleasant evenings with you
next year! We shall have
to converse in writing.

Thanks you for your kind
invitation to visit you
this summer and your
two interesting letters.

Please let me hear
from you again soon
as I shall always be
interested in you and
your experiences.

Ever lovingly,
Esther Barnett