



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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Air Mail

DEC 7
7 PM
G.P.O.



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

From 310 Riverside Dr. #1014
New York City, N. Y.

V

and distant. She & Mr. Rupp recognised me in the audience, so Ruth thought I had better go back to speak to her - Mr. Rupp helped me through the crowd - I happened to sit next to a most delightful couple - a Mr. & Mrs. Cinetti - who were decidedly Anderson enthusiasts, so they came back stage with me - Ruth, meanwhile taking Bernadine to the station to catch the six o'clock train as she had an 11:30 PM train to catch in New York - I had a fine chat with Mr. Rupp who spoke again and again of his pleasure over the visit he made in Little Falls. You and Daddy's law must have learned - He said so many nice things of you both - Ruth had wanted me to remain with her over night - But because I was saving "Hawkeeman" Monday evening with the Crowthers as hosts, I thought it wiser to go straight back, so I caught the 7 PM train to N. Y. - when it pulled in to the

Back bay station who ^{VI} should get on but Mr.
Rupp, Miss Anderson and Miss Opperman
who substituted for Mr. Joffe. Miss Anderson
cordially invited me to take dinner with them
which I did - but she wasn't her usual
gracious self, and directed most of her
conversation to Miss Opperman - She did
ask about you, though, and said she'd been
trying to get a letter off to you, but had not
so far succeeded - I didn't say anything but I
felt a little provoked with her - After this
conversation she buried her nose in a magazine
all the way to Bridgeport - I would have liked to
talk to her, but when she's in a mood of this kind,
it's better to leave her alone - Mon. eve. Mr.
Rupp (who had driven me home in a taxi from the
train) asked me to take supper with him & Steffi
before I went to the opera, so we had a most
cozy time. I met the Crowthers at the Metropolitan,
and spent a most superb evening listening
to Vanhacumen - Clara Helman, a French artist,
did a wonderful job as Venus - It was so

VII.

will come, that I said to the Crowthers afterwards that Fannhucum should have gone back to Venus who really loved him, instead of requiting her love for that of the ice-berg, Elizabeth. Miss Schmach made them nearly have hysterics. Clarence McWhin had sung in concert at Town Hall the Sunday Bernadine & I were in Boston, and Miss Opperman who travels with her sometimes, said she's a lovely person to know, so who knows, maybe I'll meet her one day - Miss Opperman also travelled with Schumann Heink, and told us many delightful tales of that diva - Fogged back to the Crowthers, they introduced me to the daughter of Grete Stuebe, the opera singer (Mr. Rupp used to accompany her) during intermission, also to a delightful Polish Catholic Priest who used to know Bederski.

Tuesday night, (last night) I had a ticket to "La Bohème," so went by myself - The music in the 3rd & 4th acts is the most beautiful operatic music I have ever

heard. Claudia Ringa (^{VIII}Engel Ringa's daughter)
had the role of Mimi, and did superbly -
I can't stand Jan Peerce, the leading man -
He is so conceited - I call him "Big-squeak"!
I ran into Mrs. Larrabee and a Parmassus
girl, a pianist named Fola Hayes - a charming
girl who graduated from Smith College -
Mrs. Larrabee asked after you particularly,
and told me to run up to Parmassus one day
soon - Took her & Fola to The Maxwell House
Cafe for coffee after the performance -

Tomorrow night, Friday, & Saturday,
I shall see "The Rose Tree", "Carmen," & "Aida" -
Thelma Votipka is playing in all three of them,
also there will be a new Aida whom I am
anxious to hear - I hope some day that I can meet
Miss Votipka. Everyone also knows her says she's
charming!

Next Tuesday eve. I'm invited up to
Madame Giannini's for the evening. She's Mr. Gian-
mini's sister & sings with the Metropolitan cast -
You can see how busy I am!

IX

This Saturday Bud Vanner is taking me to dinner, and I am going to see if I can ^{can} get him a ticket for Aida. His sister, Jan, has asked us for cocktails. This Sunday, I may go to Pittsburgh, but I'm not sure. I may be too tired!

Bernie called me up the other day - He isn't so well so I shall have to call back, and find out how he is -

Mr. Rupp has been ill with a cold; I talked to him tonight, and he said he & Steffi wanted to see a lot of me before I left -

At the Maxwell House Cafe last night, the cashier recognized me - having remembered me at the Waldorf; wasn't that funny?

As you can see, I'm having a wonderful time!

I forgot to tell you that I took Uncle Ping & the nurse (not Mrs. Porth) to dinner last night - They enjoyed it very

much. I also have ^{seen} June & Billy for
a few minutes — Now you have all the
news — oh yes I forgot — Betty was in town
this week-end — I didn't see her though —

My dearest love to you & daddy —
wasn't that a thoughtless, hard-hearted thing
for Betty Jayne to do. I told Mr. Rupp about
it, and he said Jimmy was well rid of her —
I think so too! Please give my best love
to Alice — & again so much, much
love to my little blooper —
— Lana Lane —

Air Mail



*Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Musser
Lincoln Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota*

BUILD YOUR FUTURE
WISELY, SAFELY,
U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

From The Hotel Concord #204
30 West 54th St.
New York City





Thinking of you

Feb. 18.

Dearest Daddy and Mother;

What a shock that was to hear of your operation, Mother, but I am so thankful you came out of it as well as you did! Maybe, now that it's done, your leg may be improved also. Oh! I thank the Good Lord it was nothing worse, but why didn't you let me know?

I would have come home to help with things, and will now, if you need me! The strain must have been a terrible thing to you both! Again, I am so thankful it came out so well! Got in surely with us! Do let me know as soon as possible if you need me!

We are having a beautiful Feb. and on the 15th the temp. was 71° - the hottest day on record for this month!

Everyone here asks after you both!

I am keeping well, happy, and interested in things! Saw June the other day for the first time. She's as happy as ever.

Had a letter from Guilford which was quite interesting - considering -

Do let me know as soon as you can how you are, and if there's anything I can do!

5 L 100
BROWNIE

Your loving & devoted, Laura Jane -

I'll tell the WORLD



I wish you
a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

I'm not such a STINKER

*I'd broadcast your age
But I'll broadcast
my wishes
On the very next page*



*Hope this birthday
makes your Hit Parade!
A Daily Program of
Happiness!
Hope Good Luck is
Always Your Sponsor!*

Darling daddy;

Bless the dear God for giving you
to us, and on this your birthday, may
we be forever mindful of all the wonder-
ful things you have made possible for
us, and be ever so thankful and appreciative
of the wonderful person we have in our
midst -

I am sending on a little present which
will come later -

Take care of yourself -
And eat a big piece of cake for me -
- Your loving little Jane -

10HB153
Rosebud

TRADE MARK

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Hope so! I don't blame the (June 26 -
your Andersons, because they are trying their
level best to have this visit go smoothly
but "fate" can be most unreasonable at times.

Dearest mother, ^{with much love} to all, Laura Jane.

You darling little bopper!
First your lovely phone call, and
now your long lovely letter! You
make me feel very much ashamed
of myself! I didn't want to write
until after the Anderson visit but
it's been postponed again - this time
M. A. has a badly abscessed jaw
and is having it fixed on Monday.
When Alpe called me last night,
~~and~~ I said for our combined peace
of minds, the visit had better be
called off, but she said "no."
Then I told her that I should like
to count on it within the next week
because, I simply had to get my

go through - were fair - a room in
a small hotel across the way, or a
room in a boarding house with an
electrically equipped cook stove. With a
hot summer in store, these ideas do
not sound particularly attractive. Perhaps
it would be wiser to wait until September
and study that month with Mr. Shurz.
We have had steady sunshine for
two weeks, and the humidity is
something fierce. The only way to
make life tolerable, is to sit in the
mud with a damp cold washcloth
handy or to go to an air-conditioned
theater, and plan to stay for the whole
afternoon and early evening. (Fully clothed
of course.)

I haven't seen any of my friends
since the boat trip on Sunday. Esther
and I had as good a time as we could

theory completed - visit or no visit, 2-
and if they didn't want me, ^{they} to please
say so, and not keep me waiting
like this, because it disrupted things
so. She seemed quite distressed and
very apologetic, saying that this
sort of thing had never happened before
and that they did definitely want me.
Told her I would call Monday evening
and if M.A. feels that the results of her
treatment will be an all-month affair,
I shall put an end to this interminable
waiting, and take the first train to
Cleveland, or Little Falls (if this terrible
heat doesn't break). Speaking of Cleveland,
I had a letter from the registrar, saying
it was quite alright for me to register
for the last three weeks of summer
school, and that the accommodations
panted that the apartment idea didn't

Despite the heat and my "cure" -
There was a swimming pool at Indian
point where Esther delighted herself,
and I donned in my ^{suit} ~~swimsuit~~, meekly sat
on the edge, taking as much comfort as
I could from dabbling my feet in the
water, I incidentally got a rather tanning
sun-tan. We then tried the miniature
golf course in the blazing sun, and gave
it up after six or seven holes; by then,
we found it was time to leave, so we
tramped down to the dock, and stood with
a perfect mob of people for almost an hour
waiting for the boat. Once aboard and settled,
I didn't leave my spot save once, to pursue
an elusive knitting needle which had fallen
to the floor below. Arriving in N. Y. ^{I found} ~~there~~
no tapes, so tramped some four long blocks
before I found one - Needless to say, I was
exhausted! Well, darling, perhaps the
next letter I write will be from "Marianna".

away two weeks ^{ago} ⁵. So far I have
not confirmed this, but perhaps you
know something about it already.

wed. evening, I went to Brooklyn
to hear Alice Templeton. He played
a most interesting program, the
second part devoted to his own compo-
sitions and improvisations. He's completely
blind, and the way he gets over the keys is
nothing short of miraculous. He had us
all in stitches in his take offs of the
Classic master's compositions, in jazz
style. - He had 3 or 4 people of the
audience (I was one of them) each name
a key, and he'd improvise a composition
using those keys; and a composition by
some composer, and he'd improvise using
melodies from those compositions. The
evening as a whole was an unusually de-
lightful one.

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Last night, I took Luol and Penelope to see "Stars on Ice" at the Center Theatre. It was a fine display of Gummy skating to the tunes of Chumbas, Congas, Sambas, Boogie-woogie etc. The star of the evening was a 7 year old child named Twinkle Watts who made sport headlines as the most outstanding bowler of the year - her score 250. She is a beautiful skater with a charming personality. The evening was marred somewhat by the fact that I was coming down with Laryngitis - my voice is a beautiful squawk today.

I went to hear a Brazilian Pianist at Town Hall this aft. Philippa and her mother were there - also some friends of mine from the Barmanus Club. We all had a fine visit. I attended a composition class afterwards with Philippa, and her teacher prevailed upon me



Dearest mother & daddy;

April 21

Thank you so much
for the wonderful perfume.
Everyone asks me what it is.
I lovely love fancy odors as
you know!

You must have had a then, so we drove over to the
Grand Easter with Aunt Harmony Grove Cemetery to
Laura and the King. I went up her grave, but I couldn't
find it any where. We found
a J. S. Rogers' marker, and I
wondered if that was the

I was fun

going to Boston for Ruth is
always such good company -
She took me to Salem to
see "The House of Seven Gables"
that Hawthorne made famous
in his writings. I remembered
too, that Japs had been buried
there.

grave of an ancestor of ours!
The one whose wife was Sarah
Rogers - and whose picture you
have.

Salem, you know is a
"witch" town, and that day
we were there was cloudy, raw
and cold. The sky was covered
with black & grey wisps of clouds
looking for all the world like
witches riding broomsticks.

We saw the old "Witch" House
where Judge Cowen tried all

CHESTNICK

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BF 1

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those poor old Beldames, and climbed up the secret
staircase in the chimney of the "house of Seven Gables".
The rooms were all restored. I was so surprised to see so
much Chinese furniture, but the original owner was a
Sea Captain. At the Souvenir counter, there were all
sorts of interesting dolls of that period and I bought a
Dey doll and Chin for my collection. There were also on
sale two "Witch" dolls, and there I bought for Ruth Roberts &
Helma - both who sing "The Witch" in "Hansel & Gretel".
I gave Ruth's to her yesterday when I came down to see
Hansel & Gretel - She was highly delighted, and amused
all the children in the audience with it before she had to
dress for her role. Ruth is such a nice friend! I hope
you'll meet her one day. On Easter Sunday we attended
services at Christ's Church in Cambridge. I missed Helma's
singing very much! And then Ruth (Settling) had a ticket
for me to hear Marian Anderson at Symphony Hall - I was
lucky. I sat next to the same people I sat next to a year ago at
an Anderson recital. At that time I had lost a valuable ear-
ring, and much to my surprise they had found it, and returned
it to me at the concert! They had kept it all this time in hopes of
seeing me again. They are such a nice couple, so I imagine will be-
come good friends. Their kind thoughtfulness touched me very much!

I must go now as I have some errands to do -
Please write me soon - With much love to you both - Love, Jane

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way over on East 83rd St., so he
took me up there this afternoon. It's
a funny old church, but at least was heated,
and the organ - an ancient decrepit looking thing
wasn't too bad! The auditorium was dark as a
pocket and we banged into pews before
we located the organ, but we found after
much rummaging around that there were
lights to work by, so we were much relieved!
Mr. G. was highly delighted at the discovery of
this organ for he feels the sooner I can begin
on a Church organ the better, and he
has been working so hard to find me one.
At first he was afraid I'd have to go to
a church in Harlem, that was where he
practiced when he first came to N. Y.
but as it happens, I don't have to now.

Valbohm was superb as "Amneris," and I wish they'd always have her do that role.

Have seen Gerda Klein quite a bit. She's such a dear if a bit flighty at times. Haven't seen Jane or the Crowthers in a long time, but see Pearl & Wilks often. Everyone of them ask after you & all, and will be so glad to see you when you come on.

By the way I inquired at the Chevy Chase Inn for Mrs. Sumner, and talked to her sister who sent Mrs. S. my address. I received a sweet note from her. She is in Washington D.C. but expects to be back by the time you & all get here. She said she does so want to see you.

I must stop now & go to bed,

By the way, she is very anxious to have details of the Little Falls Congregational Church organ. We want to know the make - no. of stops; no. of pipes; size of pedal board - no. of manuals etc. I think if you have Mrs. Smoot write to me, she'll be able to supply me with that information. Also he would like to know the same details of our house organ!

Last night I went to see "Aida" with Lydia Wellstead (of Salome fame) as "Aida". She wasn't very good in the part, and sang entirely too fast, and too much off key. She more of a dramatic soprano, and I feel would never be at home in the lyric roles. Mr. Virgil Thompson of the N. Y. Herald Tribune mentioned Kippis' voice as that of the Priests as being the most beautiful of any in the cast. Miss

For another busy day is ahead of me.

Please don't forget to write -

Your loving Laura Jane -

I shall write ded way soon -

Had lovely letters from Grace Woodworth & Ruth Waltherens. Please thank them for me and am sorry to hear that Pearl's in the hospital. Will try to drop her a line -

Please have ded inquire at the bank for the checks I paid in January of this year. Received a statement from Brofens which I know I paid Jan. 5 or 6th.

Called them and they said they never received it, and I know they did! These N. Y. stores are very careless in their Book-keeping -



HOTEL NEW WESTON
MADISON AVENUE AT 50TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

down when who should come into the room but Jim Taylor! Well! I was surprised, and of course thrilled to death! (These were the mysterious friends!) Jim looked wonderfully well, and told him how much we liked his picture. He & Margaret asked all about you, and I told them what I could. I hadn't heard from you for so long that I couldn't give them many details. Jim was just spending the night because in the morning he was leaving for Wallingford having been given a few days leave. He may be coming back this

I met two colored women who remembered
having seen me at Miss Anderson's recital.
The one on my left was a singer who
has been making quite a name for herself.
I have frequently heard her on the radio. Her
name is Miss Ella Bell Davis. Fritz Kreisler
was also in the audience. Tonight I am
going to hear Artur Schnabel. I have a
ticket for Alice and hope she gets here in
time.

Please write very soon, and my
love to you always,
Laura Jane

way, and if so, will see me again. ⁶⁻
I certainly hope he can do so!

Margaret & Mary both stayed over Sunday.
I was sorry I couldn't be with them
because I had been invited out to dinner
by my friend Carol Blanton, and to spend
the afternoon with her. They left this
morning early. Margaret will return
to Wellesley where she will resume teaching
having been on a month's vacation due to
the heat situation at the college.

Last night I attended the Helen
Traubel concert. Her singing was gorgeous
particularly in the middle and low
registers. The concert was for the women
law division. Many of its members sat on
the stage. I sat in the tenth row

5
I came up at because she hadn't
heard from you, so I had to write
her right away and apologize for
you and Daddy. Am glad that you're
going to call her - This is really a
very dear soul, and I wouldn't
want to hurt Ruth's feelings in any
way for she has a very lovely
family, and she, herself, is such
a wonderful person - She is, next
to Golda, one of the dearest friends
I've ever had.

Please thank all my Little
Galls friends for being so wonderful
to me while I was home! I shall
write to them all individually when
I have more time. My young man
hasn't called yet. I think I will
drop him a line one day. His name
is Mr. Krasner, and he is from
Toronto. I guess I told you about him
over the phone. There is so much to
do here, and so much to see. I
really am having a grand time,

and lose every minute of it.

It's bad about Adam leaving

Chicken Pot, but it's a mild climate.
And shouldn't bother him too much!
He's always up to every thing, isn't he?
When you finish the "Misses' Pictures"
send it on for I'd love to read it.
When does Alice get home? Now I
wish we could have some of our
Minnesota snow here. Yesterday,
the thermometer registered 75° above -
the warmest I've day in the history

of the weather bureau - we still haven't
had a good rain or snow storm -
Damp foggy days are about the
closest to rain we can achieve.
Am glad daddy had such a good time
in Minneapolis. I surely do do
him good to get with the gang once
in a while - Too bad about Sister
Mary Anthony - She was quite old,
wasn't she? Letter-ettes

Have been going to the
opera quite a bit. Have seen

8. "Die Meistersinger", "Carmen", "Gianni Schicci" & "Salome", and an excellent performance of "Tosca" with Melchior doing a magnificent "Orturo". I'm very partial to Melchior, and consider him the finest Negro at the "Met" today. You would have enjoyed a program Nancy Kendall took me to hear last Tuesday - It was a recorded program called "Voices That Live" given at the "Met" by a Mr. Butterworth, radio commentator - we heard records of "Caruso", "Lind", "Bellini", "Patti", "de Reszke", "Nemes", "Shuman and Kinck", "Martinielli", & "de Lucca". These last two were in a box at the "Met" - Both live here at the Buckingham. I have met them through the Richters. Save all your old opera records now, because they are collector's items -

Please write soon, dear, and don't wait so long to answer as you did this time -

Love you, too -
Loren Jane -

Barbara has been very ill with a virus infection - I'm so glad she has a place to stay for I could never have taken care of her!

May 17, 1940

Dearest father:

I don't know whether this letter will find you at home or not, but I'm sure the girls will forward it if you don't receive it. How very much I did enjoy the letter I just received from you today. You certainly are a busy man with all those lumber co. engagements pending.

What must have been fun in that snow-bound resort. It is hard to think of now this time of year when everything is so beautiful here. I am all over my cold now, and am trying to take better care of myself - being out about as much as I am able. Exams come sometime next week but as there are so few to take, I don't have to study much. This week has been normally full of activities: Monday Night, I was out with my friend, Mr. Proctor. It was a beautiful evening - so we took an open air bus down as far as Fifth Street.

where we got out and walked over to the Shelton to have a swim, going home afterward as it was rather late. Frank is a very nice person to be with, and we have had many nice times together.

Wednesday evening was the monthly lecture at the Bahai. They have many interesting talks there and many interesting people to meet. Miss Porter usually meets me there and afterwards we always have a chat over a cup of chocolate. I didn't see her at the last meeting as she had another engagement. I had a note from her today though asking me to see a play in the making Monday Night. At this sort of affair, only critical audiences are allowed. If the play passes all tests, it is immediately produced on Broadway. If not, no one ever hears of it. Anyhow, Miss Porter being one of the judges of these plays has asked me to come, and I think it will be very interesting. She has been so busy to me, father, that I wish I could do something for her but she won't let me. I have made many unusual and warm friends in N.Y. and they have all helped to make my stay such a pleasant

one. Thursday evening found me with Betty and Luke King. I had heard a story the late part of the afternoon, and so did Betty asked me to take dinner with them. Betty had come home for a short stay, but she was going to have a date that evening, so I just had a dinner to say "hello," and that was all.

Friday I am going over to see Abel, and have dinner with her, and I guess that finishes up my week.

I don't just know when I will be home. At my last date there I was eight, so if matters decide to stay away longer I don't know to call her by. I don't know my account. Mr. Campbell (New Haven) has asked me up to Wednesday to see her for a few days. And then I may see Margaret and Mary Fitzgerald. I decide going to Washington. Right now, it all sounds kind of confusing. I am sure I don't know what I am going to do about my trunk. Finally but to be away from home for so long, my darling, but I

Don't see how I can very well get out of it.
Do you?

Daddy, my thing teacher, Mr. Ehaber has
asked me to see if I can get some literature on Minnesota
for he and his wife are very anxious to take their vacation
there this summer! Will you please send him as many
Catalogues as you can find about lakes, fishing, boating
etc. as soon as possible! (before May 31st) His
address is: Mr. Jackson Ehaber
60 The Gilliland School of Music
120 Claremont Ave., N. Y. C.

Thank you so much dear -

Write me again very soon, my precious
father, and my love to you and mother always.
Love -

P.S. What's Mary's new address?