



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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"Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness." Matt. 6:33

Blackduck, Minnesota

March 16, 1945

My dear Katie,

It was so good to hear from
you again.

So you are a God-mother!
The account of the christening
was very interesting. I wish
I could have been there!!

If I were only capable I
should like to give you pointers
on that Norwegian woman.
There is enough fascinating
events surrounding her life to
make a book, not only
an article.

John left Feb 4 for northern
Sask to visit and speak in
our mission stations there.
On the way up he became very
ill with yellow jaundice and
~~was~~ so desperately sick that
the missionary thought he was
going to die. He came home
about the 16th and went
to bed for a week after seeing
the doctor. He is much better
but still tires very easily.
Well Laura Jane, we do
not have as an eventful life
as you are having but we
are having a joyful one.

Last Thurs. evening we
started a Bible study for
all the Christians of all

churches. It was quite well
attended for the first meeting
and we hope it will increase
in. It is only when Christians
(I mean not any who is not
a heathen, but those who
have accepted Christ Jesus
as a personal Saviour believing
Him to be the only Begotten
Son of God) from every
race and creed can love
to meet together - loving one
another as Christ loved us
(when he gave His life for us) then
the world can and will see
that the Christians have a
blessed peace that the world
can not have because it does
not know the love of God by having
it in their hearts.

I am enclosing some
clippings, I have enjoyed
very much and hope you
do too.

What three subjects are
you talking now?

Be sure you let me know
when your address changes.

We did enjoy having you
here, and are glad you had
a chance to come.

Love,
Hazel

Played For Assembly

Miss Laura Jane Musser of Little Falls played for an assembly program Thursday morning, January 25. Miss Musser has studied music from the leading musicians in New York City, and gave a concert in which she played some of her compositions, and also the compositions of the child prodigy. Miss Musser's explanation of her pieces and the changing moods was very interesting to the high school assembly. The group that the students apparently liked best, was the group of selections by this child prodigy with whom Miss Musser has been associated. It was through Mrs. John Goodrich, who is a friend of Miss Musser, that she was brought to the school.

Box 60
Blackduck, Minn.



16B
Miss Laura Jane Musser
70 The Waldorf Astoria
50th & Park Avenue
New York City
N.Y.
16 B

4-17-45

My dear Laura,

Bless my soul - so the gal is camping at the Waldorf! Hummmm - sounds mighty exciting and what fun it would be to sort o' drop in one O' these days. But - this little gal can't get herself Eastward this year 'cause on April 27, she is flying out to Tucson to take inventory on the new Lamb residence. And I do mean "flying"! Yes - I'm going to leave all my security on terra firma and do a little ~~cloud~~ hopping. Imagine that! I think it's going to be quite a lark, but I just hope I don't have to become too intimate with the "burp cup"! I'll be gone for at least three weeks and oh - I hope there will be plenty of sun to soak up. After all the drizzle and rain we've been having I feel more like a duck than a human being. Believe me - this so-called Spring, ducks have the edge in old Minnesota! Seems like you never dare venture out without a bumpershoot, raincoat and rubbers. So much for the big news and the weather report. Wouldn't be a letter without a touch of the elements, would it now!

Seems to me that it's been a very long time since your gladsome Easter card was popped into my mail box - but never the less, I did so appreciate your thought and especially the few lines tucked inside. I just never seem to gather up enough time to have all the letter-chats I'd like to - but you should be more than certain that you are not being forgotten!

Let's see if I can tell you any news from the old home town. Joyce, Bunny, Marian and Marguerite plus me took in the Ice Follies a few week ends ago. They all breezed down on Friday and we more than flew around those few days. Joyce stayed with me and Bunny parked with Marguerite. Marion stayed at her brother's. Suppose you know that the ice show is always held at the arena and in my way o' thinking, that place is just too small to do such a show justice. You can't begin to see the patterns that you can in the St. Paul Auditorium because the arena is so limited in space. But - we had a gay time and enjoyed it so much. The skating was mighty good considering the lack of male skaters and the costuming was beautiful. Wish you might have been there, too. And say - that would be a good date for next year if I'm still around these parts. How about that? It would be fun, all right!

Here's some news - Marguerite is giving up her job - has by this time - and is going to take a little rest at home for a few months. I think the gal needs it for she does look pretty tired out. Guess her job was quite exacting and then she wasn't too happy in it and that

makes a big difference, too. Don't mind this shift in paper - I'm at the office as you can guess and I have to use whatever I can lay my hands on. 'Course, I could have been very gay and written you on bright yellow copy paper - but I did find this, so it will have to suffice.

Babe LaFond has been having some trouble with her eyes lately - I don't know just what it is - and she has been home for a rest, too. I think that was necessary before treatments could be started. Hope it will clear up and not be anything serious. Eyes are so darn precious!

Eddie Berg is somewhere in Germany - no, I think it was France, Bunny said. He's in some service unit so I imagine he'll be over there for quite sometime. At least, that's what the papers have been saying - if you can rely on them! Jack Regan is still in England and all is well with him. Joyce says he is a little restless, but then most men in that type of work are. I know Bob is more than champing at the bit, but I'm happy to know he isn't in combat. Perhaps, though, with the current developments, Germany will be defeated before too many more months lapse. Lordy - how the world prays for that! I've been trying to hope that Bob would be back by the end of this summer, but then that's just to keep my spirits up. You can't expect anything until it happens, I guess. At least, you don't get too blue if you look at it that way. Still - all this mess is taking such a chunk out of so many peoples lives, isn't it. Wish we could get it across that War doesn't pay - but I wonder. Seems like we can't learn.

I'm sure that you must have heard that Dr. Amundsen is married. There has been lots of chatter this way and that - but you know, Lotsie, perhaps it is for the best. He probably is very lonely and needs companionship - and I think it was all right, too. It's a chance for two lonely people to have a home and some kind of a life together and I don't think that is disrespectful to Mae. After all, you have to go on living, don't you. You just can't make hard and fast conclusions any more. Individuals can't be lumped together under one set of so-called thou shalls and thou shan't nots - as far as convention goes. Some things are basic and fundamental to your good and that of society, but that doesn't portend every problem that arises. Soooo - as I said before, I'm glad for him and for her.

Oh yes - I'm going to see Rosemary Olsen Siefert while I'm in Tucson, too. I wrote her that I was coming out and suggested that she try to come up and spend a week with us. And - bless her, she went right to work on her chief and she'll be arriving via the air, too, on May 6. I'm so anxious to see her 'cause it's been such a long time. You know, Rosey was and still is

one of the finest gals I've ever known. She used to practically live at our home and we've always been very close. I know some guys and gals didn't think she was glamorous enough, but all that tinsel stuff doesn't amount to a row of pins. Rosey has so much more to her than many people ever can acquire or develop. She has this marvelous accounting position in the big Navy Supply Depot at San Diego, you know, and I'm just so proud of her success. It's so much fun to see a special friend make the grade, isn't it? Do you remember Rosey's husband, Pete? Perhaps you didn't have a chance to meet him, but he is in Germany now with the 9th Army. My - but things are rolling along over there, aren't they. Each paper you pick up charts new and pretty tremendous gains. Every bit is terribly encouraging!

I wonder what New York's reaction was to the passing of Mr. Roosevelt? I listened to so much stuff over the radio that I couldn't sort it out for the world. It certainly was a shock though. I couldn't help thinking at the time that Dad had said at the time of the last election that he'd give the President less than a year to live. Well - he was right. Regardless of the fact that I didn't respect the man's principles or his use of power or his political policies, I did admire his courage in the face of such physical handicap. Perhaps we live too close to this period to judge it fairly, but now we have another era and I have much hope that it will be the beginning of new opportunities for America. President Truman may not have the forceful personality or the same type of background, but perhaps that will prove to be an asset. I have much hopes for what he will do. I guess we must believe and hope for his success, because it means the success of our country as a whole. It seems that he does not have a lot grandiose ideas as to his ability, from what the commentators report, and that he tends to delegate power to men who are practical authorities and experts. If that be the case, then this surely can be a great New Era. Anyway, I hope he will be given the wisdom and guidance to meet and fulfill his grave responsibilities.

So many people seem to think that now the government will be more or less returned to the people and its congress - and isn't that what the Constitution intended? I think it is. And - that's enough about that event!

How are your Mother and Father, Lotsie? Do give them my love when you write, won't you. I've always been so fond of them - and of their little rascal named Lotsie, too! Hope that I'll be able to run in and visit them the next time I'm able to trot up to Little Falls.

I suppose you are more than madly dashing around in the Big City. Do tell me what you're doing and about the good shows you've seen. The Met is coming here the end of April and how I wish I could go. But I'll not be here. Guess you just can't have everything, can you? I imagine your family will be coming down. My, but it would be something to see!

Well, my dear, I must get back to work now. I'm snatched enough time from the agency, I fear. Do write when you can find time.

Much love to you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shirley", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

MACKENZIE, INC.

431 CLIFTON AVENUE • MINNEAPOLIS 4, MINNESOTA

Shirley R. Lamb
Belmont Apt. Hotel
1000 W. Franklin
Minneapolis 5, Minn.

16-B
21



Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Waldorf Astoria # 16 B.
50th and Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

THE
WALDORF ASTORIA

1945 APR 19 PM 2 59

16TH FLOOR WEST

8th Jan 46-

Hello Leticia,

Thanks so much for the card sent to me and the one from New York was mailed to me. I'd love to accept your invitation to come to the concert, but right now I am trying to straighten things out now getting a voice teacher and language lessons etc, I could find the time probably but, financially, I can't afford it to be quite frank. I would like to visit you before I leave for New York however and will keep in touch with you and let you know when I can make it. I really am sorry to miss Marion's concert, please tell me all about it when it's over.

Yes, I see Mrs Ross, she's well and sends her regards to you. I will tell let you know all about my studies out here as soon as I am settled. Have a nice time and drop a line soon.

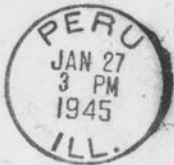
Love
Barbara

Miss A. Winter
3717 Lafayette Ave
Chicago 21 Ill



Miss Laura Jane Kurser
Linden Hill,
Little Falls, Minn.

ask Marion about
what she'd like for
her birthday - a
hand knit scarf
or sweater - Ask Sage.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls,
Maine.

Mrs. Norman Olson
1628 Pike St.
Peru, Ill.

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Jan. 27, 1945

Dear Laura Jane,

I was so glad to get
your card at Christmas
time.

Have thought of you many
times and wondered where
you were and what you
were doing.

We're still here in
Peru and like it fine.
Belly is $2\frac{1}{2}$ now and
is getting to be such a
big boy.

Do wish you could visit
us some time. Would love
to see you.

Mary Lillian Skirvin's
husband was killed in

action last August. She is
living in La Bells with her
baby.

Helen Held is in Oklahoma
& has 4 children. That's
about all I know.

Do write to me. Laura
Jane and I'll write again
soon.

Sincerely Jane



Mrs. Norman E. Olson



STATION

16B
/ 27

Miss Laura Jane Mauer
Waldorf Astoria
50th & Park Ave, # 16 B
N.Y. C.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

500 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

Room 639



500 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

3/31/45

Dearest Anna,

I have tried several times to get you on the phone but I guess you are a very busy lady these days.

Thank you so very much for the ticket. I shall look forward with great anticipation to hearing Mrs Anderson.

It will also be grand seeing you. Perhaps we can

arrange some time to have
dinner together.

Thanks again .

Sincerely,

Penelope

Suplt R. L. Tanner USMC
Sig Co 8th Field Depot
% FPO. San Francisco



VIA AIR MAIL



Miss Laura Jane Musser
% The Waldorf Astoria
New York City

April 28, 1945

Dear Laura Jane,

My last letters were necessarily short because I not only had little time, but also because there were numerous strict regulations governing our correspondence at that time.

As you have perhaps guessed by now, I was among the troops who took Iwo Jima. Upon returning to civilization where such things as magazines and newspapers are available, I find that much has been written about us -- so much, in fact, that it would be superfluous for me to describe any of it to you.

I can only say that I am profoundly grateful to whatever forces controlled my destiny that I have returned physically whole and mentally sound (I think)...

A moment ago I pondered the idea of telling you of several amusing incidents which occurred there, but it dawned on me that these things perhaps weren't funny and would not be appreciated as humor by anyone not a Marine. I have been in the Service too long a time to be certain that my outlook conforms with conventional standards of humor. I think it doesn't.

Humor is mostly an exaggeration of fact, anyway. A case in point is this little story which, whenever recalled by any of us, causes a burst of laughter....

One evening at dusk a Japanese officer who had crawled into a cave at the foot of Mount Suribachi decided to emerge from his hiding place and join his ancestors. Adorned in full regalia including a ceremonial sword (and a belt of hand-grenades) he stode into the midst of one of our bivouac areas, no doubt with the intention of taking as many Marines as he could with him into the world beyond. He covered a short distance before he was challenged by a sentry who wasted no time in pulling his trigger. It is said that before the sound of the shot echoed from the rocky slope of Suribachi, before the sentry could reach his quarry and before the Jap's body had quite reached the horizontal position, the boys in nearby foxholes (souvenir-hunters, all) had surrounded the Nip and completely field-stripped him from cap to shoes. The luckless sentry didn't get so much as a button for his collection.

Altogether in combat there are few things to laugh about. Perhaps that explains why so many men have returned with a distorted sense of humor. Anything not extremely horrible or distasteful automatically becomes hilariously funny.

The psychology of fear has been explained by many so-called eminent authorities, and in this war much has been made of certain theorists' ideas about fear which have been incorporated to some extent in combat indoctrination courses -- mostly by issuing little pamphlets describing what the soldier's reaction will likely be under fire.

I think it fortunate that the Marine Corps has paid little attention to these professors. Never having been subjected to any experiences even mildly approaching what the man in combat undergoes, how can they (pompous nincompoops) know? It would be better were they to emphasize the opposite emotion (of which they know equally little). It is harder to describe than fear, but could be said to be the exhilarating opposite of fear. (And I do not mean "bravery"). It is the spontaneous motivating force behind the actions of those who face the enemy's direct fire and yet who push him back or drive him from his emplacements. Those uninhibited Russians have it. And the Marines too. (Here I blow my horn in typical Marine fashion.)

At present I am in a Rehabilitation Center. In a short while the old routine will prevail, but we are resting, reading, writing, swimming in a pool, quaffing beer in a garden and enjoying the scenery. This island is beautiful -- a south-seas garden spot that must have been landscaped by a god who read something of Stevenson. I hope that some day you will find the opportunity to visit it.

My plans are not my own, of course, so I don't know where I shall be when I leave here. I am hoping to be returned to the States to go to a school for a few months, and then to return to the Pacific Area, perhaps Asia or Japan itself. I will keep in touch with you, and who knows -- perhaps we'll find ourselves hashing over old times and making plans to take in a concert.

Tell me more of yourself and your plans. Do you think you will return to L.F. in the Fall? I suppose you will have acquired your Master's Degree by then. Let me know, and if you make any changes drop me a postcard. Of course, letters are the best, and yours are most interesting.

Sincerely,

Bud

*Supt R. L. Tanner USMC
Sig. Co. 8th Field Depot
APO San Francisco*

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

34 West 135th Street

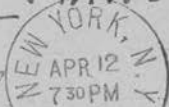
New York, 30, N.Y.

Tel. AU. 2-4000

POWERS - PIANOS

125th St.

Bet. Lenox Ave. & 5th



BRONX

AM



Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Waldorf Astoria
16 B
New York City NY.

110 B
200

THE
WALDORF ASTORIA

1945 APR 13 AM 11 35

16TH FLOOR WEST

8 West Walton Place
Chicago 10, Illinois
Whitehall 8896
PAX...

Dearest Friend,

April 10th 45

My first concern is to apologise to you..and that most thoroughly..for indeed it is almost unpardonable of me to have left your most interesting letter,un-answered for such a long time.The only excuse I can and an offering,dear Miss Musser,is that since almost January I have been on"the road" a-lecturing.And when I do that my correspondance has to wait for my return,which took place Holy week.So you see how things are, at least I hope you will,and also forgive me in your kindness and understanding.

I am so glad that you visited FH in NYC and met my little spiritual family,they are a grand bunch.But what rejoices me even more is that you are interested enough to offer your services,and indeed you are right,music is a grand opening wedge into many strange places..for it speaks the universal language,understandable and dear to all men,but especially so to the Negro.

Your plan is very wonderful and grand,but may I askwould it not be simpler and handier to just rent a piano or still better purchase one,for Friendship House itself..Having worked in Harlem for many years,I know from bitter experience how hard it is to get Negro kids to go any place especially into the big white world..They poor dears are somewhat suspicious of us white folks ,who alas have sold them so many times down the river.

I speak so freely about"renting" or even "buying" a piano for us..only because you suggested renting a studio..a piano..and paying the carefare all of which adds up to a lot of money-enough to buy a fairly good piano even in our high price days..

Moreover, quite frankly, I am and would be terrible glad if YOU WOULD COME REGULARLY TO FH..there is more in the place then what meets the eye..and many a volunteer has found that out.You and we the Staff "orkers of FH NYC would benefit by mutual and closer acquaintainship..Believe me..I know what I am speaking about.For FH is not ~~nnly~~ only a Settlement House..A work for the underprivileged..it is so much more..for it is for all those who work in it,or come under its influence,A WAY OF CATHOLIC LIFE..

I was most interested in your wonderful ~~avcount~~ account of how you came to find out about the Negro and FH..Indeed every word of your letter found echoes in my own heart..With this difference,that being a russian by birth and education I never knew what racial prejudice is..and so was stuck dumb at finding ~~mm~~ it in the USA when I came here..I consider it an infinite privilege to work with the Negro..and my own life,as are the lives of all FH Staff "orkers,is dedicated to one goal..that of bringing Interracial Justice to America..

I will be so glad to meet you when I come to NYC.But in meantime do not go to to much expense on the matter we were discussing and think the other plan I suggested over..Will you please..And in meantime write and tell me what you think of it.

Sincerely

Catherine Doherty

PS.How about suscribing to FHNews and sending our literature to your folks in L.F.Minn.

Sup Sgt R. L. Tanner. USMC
Sig Co 8th Field Depot
% 790 San Francisco.

16B
16



Miss Laura Jane Musser
% The Waldorf Astoria
New York City

THE
WALDORF ASTORIA
1945 MAY 15 AM 10 47
16TH FLOOR WEST



May 9, 1945

Dear Laura Jane,

When I wrote to you enroute from Iwo Jima to another island (where I am at present) I fully expected to prepare for another combat operation and within a short time find myself on the approaches to Japan again.

You will be nearly as surprised as I to learn that my next destination is Little Falls, ~~was~~ instead. I will stop there for a few weeks enroute to an Officer's training school in Quantico, Va.

Tomorrow I will pick up my orders, and the next day I will board a navy plane. Within a short time I will be enjoying visits with relatives and old



friends back home. I am about the luckiest and happiest guy in the outfit. One other NCO is leaving with me. I am in something of a daze over this unexpected good fortune.

When I arrive home I'll write you a decent letter. Perhaps you'll be there for a visit, yourself, who knows? It would be grand - seeing you.

always,

Bud.

Sup Sgt R. L. Tanner, V3MC
Sig Co 8th Field Depot
c/o JPO San Francisco.

P.S. Boy, am I slipping! - just finished listening to Grieg's concerto (1st) and lost a dollar bet claiming it was something else. If I could spell it I'd tell you what I thought it was!

R. Soderberg
Curtis Hotel
Minneapolis, Minn.

16B
23



Miss Laura Jane Muses

The Waldorf Astoria H 16B
New York, New York

THE
WALDORE ASTORIA

1945 MAY 16 PM 12 28

16TH FLOOR WEST

May 13

Dear Laura Jane,

Your letter, as always, was a pleasure. When you write, you come to chat with me. I like that, for one both listens to you and sees you — and, all the while one enjoys the many good things in life with you.

Miss Williams' lessons must be great fun! You are fortunate to be able to tuck in Katherine Dunham's courses after a full-time music schedule. And then the anticipated social service at Friendship House! You are most ambitious and eager to make a whole day count. Could you let me give you much, much praise?

I was very happy to hear of

Philipppa's achievements, too. ^uManhattan Nocturne's
performance by the New York Philharmonic
must have brought deep joy to its sweet and
sensitive composer and to her many dear friends.
Even I was thrilled to hear of it — and
rightly so, since through you I had the
opportunity to meet Philipppa. I often think
of her there on the davenport speaking
ever so quietly about many things and
always with a charming clarity and
precision. Thank you again for that
delightful evening.

Your portrait of Mrs. Kuyper interests
me very much. She must be a friend
one would cherish among the loveliest. I
hope that the happiness she can give

others in helping them sing beautifully can in some part compensate for her own self's not appearing any more. I hope the "plaintive" note was only wistful and not sad.

The Metropolitan's coming to Minneapolis was so successful that the Opera will return again next May. I heard Die Walkure and Don Giovanni, both of which were superb performances. I shall long remember the great beauty of Act III of Die Walkure and the spell it cast on me. As Sherman said, "The thrill of Siegmund's love song and the teltale spinal chill evoked by Wotan's farewell are authentic signs of Wagner's sorcery." On the other hand, Don Giovanni was a gay, colorful spectacle. ~~It~~^{He} was sung with a grace

and perfection that completely transported
one. Of this Mr. Sherman wrote thus: "It had
style, pace and inner glow. It had beauty
without lavishness; its decor was fanciful
and stylized, using color deftly; the orchestra
under Walter took on a tonal transparency,
mellowness and bite that proved what
superlative instrument it is."

Spring in Minnesota has been fractious.
Blizzards tearing in and out have, for a
minute, been white against the
apple blossoms, then gone without trace
except for a sullen Lake Harriet or
dampish walk. Besides, the temperatures
have been in the thirties and forties.
We miss the warm, balmy days of
Minnesota's best springs. However, it is

a memorable season — the laying down
of arms & war in Europe makes it a
magnificent spring. If only V-E day
might come soon, too! The task of
rebuilding Europe is enormous. Step by step,
and with infinite patience, countries will
restore losses and build again a new
faith in indestructible ideals, which we
hope will not be tested so soon again.

V-E day was an impressive one
at school. Youngsters somehow
deeply sensed the significance of the
day. Every class had a tender
silence beneath its usual routine.
There was at no time an expression
of wish to celebrate gaily. A

thoughtful program in the forenoon
had set a note of sincerity for
the day. It was inspiring for a
teacher to see young people so
aware of the import of the
victory which had been won
so dearly through immeasurable
sacrifices.

The lily, Laura Jaw, was
exquisite, as I before mentioned.
Its eleven white blooms, so
beautifully perfect and still, lasted
longer than one could possibly
have believed they would. Living
with their whiteness & stillness did
something for me! Love, Ruth



Mrs Laura Jane Mussa
Room 16 B.
Waldorf Astoria Hotel
50th and Park Ave
New York

Dr. Z

M. Belsky.

29-62, 168 \$8

7. ushury N.Y.

Station A.

29-62, 168 St
Flushing, N. Y.
May 31, 1960

Dear Miss Mussa:

This is to
confirm our chat over
the telephone. I
will look for you and
your mother on
Tuesday afternoon June
the fifth at two

o'clock.

I will be glad to meet
you mother and happy
to see you again. Susan
can hardly wait until
Tuesday and wants to
skip the afternoon
session at school so as
to meet you mother
at the Bus stop.

Be sure to bring
some of your own Musical
compositions.
Sincerely,
Margaret Belby.

M. Reid
Traer, Iowa



Miss Laura Jane Musser,
~~Linden Hill,~~

The Waldorf Astoria
50th Floor Park Ave.
New York City

~~Little Falls,~~
~~Minnesota.~~

Tracer, Iowa,
May 8, 1945

Dear Miss Musser,

When I left Kolar, India last December Adelaide gave me a parcel to send you when I arrived at home. I have finally reached home after spending some weeks in Calif. and will send the parcel if I have your name and address correct. Please let me know.

Adelaide was well but very busy. She surely has a big job before her. He worked together from Feb. 1943 until I left in Dec. 1945. I enjoyed being with Adelaide very much and we had many happy times together. She is a great person. How she did enjoy America and I am sure you all enjoyed knowing her.

Sincerely,
(Miss) Mabel Reid



Miss Laura Jane Mueser
~~Guiden Hills~~ The Empire Hotel
~~Little Falls~~ Broadway
~~Minnesota~~ and Sixty Third St.
New York City
N.Y.

J. Ferrigno
433 Holly Av.
St. Paul
Minn.

Dear Laura Jane -

One of my very nicest presents was the lovely place mats set that you sent me. I can't tell you, my dear, how much we enjoy them. They are just stunning. Thank you so much for being so sweet and thoughtful. Although, it was quite unnecessary for you to do that, I enjoyed having you with me very much, we will get a great deal of

pleasure out of them.

You will be going back to New York soon I presume. I hope you will enjoy yourself - and with every good wish for your happiness in the New Year -

Most sincerely -

Jane S. Ferryess.

Friday -

M.C.K.

Box 54

New York, 30, N.Y.



10 B
1/2



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Harlem Friendship House
34 West 135th St.
New York, 30, N.Y.

Dear Miss Musser,

I believe
I did not tell you that
Friendship House is closed
Easter Week, that is, until
April 8. Therefore, the staff
is on vacation and will
not be able to carry out
our part in accepting
your very kind and gen-

erous offers to teach piano to some of our little girls this week. I hope this will reach you in time to avoid difficulties if you have made arrangements for the studio. We do appreciate your interest in these neglected little ones very much.

As you may notice from the postmark, I am spending my holidays at my home in Pittsfield. The surroundings are certainly in contrast to those of Harlem and most delightful at this most beau-

tiful season. However, I miss
the people very much and wish
they could be here to enjoy the
beauty and peace with me.

I hope you had a very
happy Easter. The weather was
certainly lovely.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mabel C. Knight

M. Reid
Traer, Iowa.



16 B / 20
Miss Laura Jane Musser,
To The Waldorf Astoria,
Room 16 B.
50th St and Park Ave.,
New York City, N. Y.

THE
WALDORF ASTORIA

1945 JUN 7 PM 2 33

16TH FLOOR WEST

Air Mail

June 5, 1945

Dear Miss Musser,

I mailed a parcel to you some days ago and hope it reached you safely. It was a lovely Benares sari. Adelaide said you loved dress up costumes. Lovely shade of silk isn't it?

I have not had a line from Adelaide since I reached the U.S.A. I know that mail is very slow and during these days the ships will carry only necessary cargo and mail is not counted as a necessity. Some day some will get through. Her address is Methodist Girls' School, Kolar Town, Mysore State, South India. She was enjoying a much needed vacation in the hills of S. India when a friend wrote me in April. School would reopen in May so she will be busy at it now. She is carrying two jobs - ^{part} school and teaching - and so is very busy.

I send all mail by air as it is much more apt to arrive.

You ask what you can send her.

At present there is little that goes into India without duty and since that cannot be paid here it is sometimes difficult when it arrives there. I am hoping to get some stockings in soon - I will put whole-sale price on my package and not the retail price. Lessens duty and is fair. Some folks put a big price on and think it helps - it doesn't it just adds to the duty. Reading material is duty free and always welcome. So are birthday and friendship cards. None are obtainable there and Adelaide could use them. Stationery - our light weight airmail kind would also be welcome. Adelaide is not in need. She gets plenty of food and clothing but does miss the little extras which add to our wardrobe. A letter from you will please her most.

Sincerely,

Mabel Reid.

1001



Miss Laura Jane Messer

~~600 Highland Ave.~~

~~Little Falls,~~

~~Miss~~

% The Empire Hotel
63rd & Broadway
New York City

Mr. James E. Davidson
1007 North 7th St.
Morris, Ia.

Dec. 28, 1945

Dear Lataie,

Thanks a lot for the
check. I can always find
something to spend
money on. I hope
that all of you had
a very Merry Xmas.

All of us had the
time of our lives here.
Vicky had more presents
than she knew what
to do with. It was

really fun² to watch her.
Even little Junior got a lot
of presents. Everyone says
that Jr. looks like Drew
but I refuse to comment.
He doesn't look like much
of anything to me. He is
just cute, that's all I
can say.

Mother and I are looking
for a house to buy. I
hope that we can find
a fairly new one near
Drew.

Have to stop now. Thanks
again for the check. Give
my love to everyone.

Love
Jim



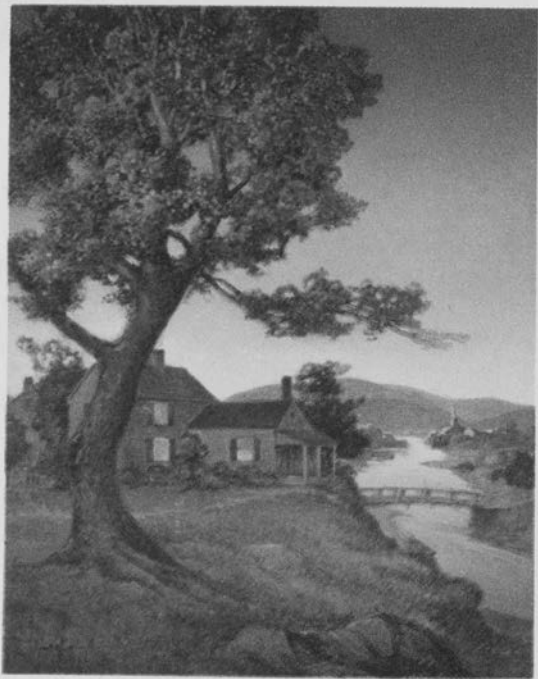
Miss Laura Jane Musser

Waldorf Astoria

50th and Park Avenue

New York, N.Y.

SBP 801 7nd st SE
Little Falls, Minn



Kate's dear -

Thank you so much
for the Christmas! I love
my pin, and you can imagine
how thrilled Cici was with
her doll. It's a beauty, and
has had its first trip to
school for all to see and
admire. I believe it's been
christened "Diana" -

When your mother was
over here on Christmas eve
I told her I would be
over with your gift. I should
have given it to her to
take to you, as Christmas
Day found me down with
the flu. I figured if I
took it over I'd have
a good chance to see you,

and as it turned out, you
didn't even get a gift.
I'm sorry it worked out
that way, but please try
to understand.

Kent is simply huge! He
looks quite a lot like Keki
did only about 3 times the
size. Wish you could see him.

Best love, darling
write!
Billie



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Hotel Waldorf Astoria
New York
New York

163
18

402 First St. Southeast
Little Falls
Minn.

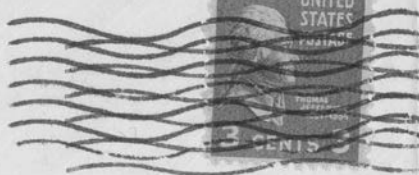
ST. LOUIS MO
MAR 30 5 33 PM '05
WALDOPE
ASTORIA
TEL

402 First Street Southeast
Little Falls Minnesota
March 28th. 1945

My dear Laura Jane;
I haven't
any news, but I wanted to
let you know I love you &
am thinking of you &
want you to know so long

The excuse for a dull
little note. We are
having such wonderful
weather here its a
pleasure to be out after
the long winter. I suppose
you are the busy girl
studying, & so much to
do & see in that big
city. I haven't been
there for many years
so I know there are
changes but I'm thank-
ful its not caused
as those in London &
Paris & the old world.

I do hope my dear
you will have a happy
Easter & many more
With my best love
Affectionately
Lou.



Miss Laura Jean Musser

~~Little Falls~~

6 Barbours Place
West 58th Street Wisconsin ~~MINN.~~
New York City

Mrs. Hermann L. Desir

267 Edgcombe Avenue

N.Y.C. 31, N.Y.

2-12-45

Dear Laura,

We are most anxious to hear from you and to know when you have decided to honor us with a visit for the much awaited occasion of Norma's christening, especially by Norma herself.

You will no longer recognize her, for she has grown so beautiful (modestly aside) and so endearing. At this very moment, she is captivating her daddy's heart with her gurgles and "gorgheggiane."

Let us hear from you as soon

as possible.

Affectionately
Muri.

P.S. a kiss from Norma.

T.H. Esmond
Walnut, Ill.



Miss Laura Jane Musser

Little Falls

%du Waldorf-Astoria ~~Minnesota~~
50th and Park Ave -
New York City

THE
WALDORF ASTORIA

1946 FEB 18 PM 1

23

FIFTH FLOOR WEST



Jack - Butch



TRUMAN ESMOND
WALNUT, ILL.

Dear Laura Jane alias Lotsie

Hi - did you think I'd forgotten you - far from it but I really haven't had much time to write - I got up extra early this morning in fact it's still dark out. Three children keep one person fairly busy & besides I've been making curtains and house dresses. At last Lotsie I have a big house at least it's the largest we've had so far - three bedrooms upstairs and a large extra room downstairs & a big screened in porch. So - when can you come & visit us. This is a grand little town. They have a nice bowling alley & movie & everyone is very friendly I love it. Truman has a store of his own now & has the John Deere Agency & also sells Westinghouse line of electrical appliances and Stuart Warner radios & vacuums, I wanted to send a picture

(sp) of the store & this is the only one I could find - it was taken last summer. The other is Butch & Jack last summer. I don't have any of the baby yet but I'll send one as soon as I can.

Thanks a lot for the book of plays. I really enjoyed it a lot. Good with Ladies is the only play I ever saw in Chicago & now

I wish I lived close enough to go to
all the plays.

Are you in New York now or
what - excuse this scribble but
jacks climbing all over me & he keeps
pumping my arm.

Lotsie, is your father
in the lumber business? He is isn't he?
Truman asked me to write to you &
ask if your dad could send him a
carload of cribbing and tongue & grooved
siding. Maybe he isn't in that part
of the business - if not just forget it
thanks anyway.

Please write soon & let me
know when you can come. Maybe
by this summer we'll have a car but
right now we just have a pick up &
a big truck & we use the pick up to
go short distances. Can't go far cause it's
too crowded with all of us in front.
Walnut is just 20 miles from Princeton
& about the same from Mendota. It's 55
miles from Ottawa.

Write soon & thanks again for
the book. I'm sorry I've been so slow
in writing -

love heaps

June

220 W. 43rd

New York

October 27, 1945

Dear Laura Jane,

I suppose you wondered why I was so slow answering your letter. Please let me apologize. The best I can do is say that I've been so busy in the new school.

I was so pleased that you wrote so soon. (I hope you won't over work.)

Miss Dunham's show closed today, much to my regret. I can't understand - although it had weak spots - it was so beautiful to look at it should really have continued through the winter. The music and dancing were lovely

But perhaps the closing
will lead to bigger and
better doings.

I think you will like
the new school. You
are coming back.

Aren't you ????

I've seen many more
Broad way shows since you
left. But other than that
activity my time is spent
in the school, around the
school and under the school.

My very best to
you, dear.

Keep well,

Squella

220 W. 43rd
New York

NOV 14 1945



Miss Laura Jane

~~Linden Hill~~

~~Little Falls, Minn.~~

% Her Waldorf-Astoria

50 154 Park Ave

New York City

J. Edward
Walnut
Ill.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Dear Laura Jane,

Ha, finally we have
the sign off the door
and Butch. if feeling
more like himself (he's fighting
with Jack 75% of the time
instead of 50%) Butch's
arm doesn't have any strength
in it but he ^{can} raise it above
his head now (with a little
help) Anyway I feel very
lucky cause it could have
been so much much worse
and the other two didn't
get it. I'm so darn sorry
it postponed your visit
but if you can come
around Dec 1st that will
be swell cause I'm getting
some new curtains + slip

covers + the house will
look a little perkier than
it does now.

I'm sure anxious to
see you and I'm dying to
just sit + listen to you
play the piano. Remember
the piece "Yesterday" that you
showed me how to play. Well
I still can but that's about all.
write soon + I'll see you
later

much love
June

April 4th 45.

STEPHANIE RUPP
370 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK CITY 25

Dear Laura Lane:

I tried several times to reach you by telephone but - after 10 minutes waiting and telling your room - number, I don't get any answer! What is that? What can one expect in a smaller Hotel with less reputation?

Well dear Laura Lane I'm so sorry that I cannot talk with you. Would you please call me to-morrow morning sometime? Hope you are fine and looking forward to seeing you soon love
Yours Stephanie



Miss Laura Lane Misser ^{16B}
Hotel Waldorf Astoria
Room 16B
Park Avenue
New York City

STEPHANIE RUPP
370 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK CITY 25

PR 5 7 59 AM '65

WALDO

VIA AIR MAIL



Miss Laura Jane Meyer

~~Linden Hill~~

~~Little Falls, Minn.~~

& Waldorf Astoria Hotel

564 Park Ave

Please Forward New York N.Y.

MAR
MRS. JAMES W. Brown
2149 West 31 street
Los Angeles 7, Calif

Feb. 20, 1945

Dearest Laura,

I received your lovely and sweet Valentine's card and letter while in Hospital. The enclosed card will tell you the reason for my being in the hospital.

Laura, I was expecting Bruce in March and lo and behold he gave us all a surprise!

When Jimmie (Jay wishes me to call him Jimmie instead of Jay) received my cablegram, he was worried sick until he got my first air mail letter. My hunch is, that Bruce was born prematurely because my cords or glands were weakened by that awful jeep ride I took in Honolulu and also I carried

some heavy books while home here. There's both home now and both mother and son are doing nicely. I can hardly believe I have a child, Laura. It's like a dream come true.

Near Laura, I can just picture you helping with housework, and if I know you well, you certainly would make a thorough and efficient helper.

I'm truly glad you enjoy the book of Hawaiian songs.

I was almost in fear, after I sent it to you, that someone else would have sent you one.

Yes, I remember Marguerite Hamamoto. I regret that while I was in Honolulu, I didn't have more time to look up my friends.

of I. H. days.

You mentioned in your letter you would be leaving for N.Y. and staying at the Barbizon. However, I'm hoping that your mother will forward this as it didn't sound as tho' you would stay very long at the Barbizon.

Laura, with all my heart and soul, I wish you would find that certain something and as you say "make ^{my} life more complete."

So, Ernestine is married. It's about time. She's a lovely person. Have you seen her while you are in N.Y. Give her my best regards, Klean.

Speaking of Marian Anderson, she's scheduled to sing here March 11, the exact date set by the Dr. as to the day Bruce was to have been born. I'm going to try every effort to hear her sing then and go back stage and say hello, altho' probably she won't remember me.

Isn't it disgusting when people wanted to see M. Anderson out of curiosity and then not show up! I hope for your sake that those who didn't show up will have their conscience bother and haunt them 'til doomsday!

The Japanese situation here on the West Coast is beginning to take on tragic aspects. Homes are being burned, Japanese are being murdered, chased out of the localities, etc.

The newspapers say that 6,000 out of 7,000 want to return to Japan. I don't know, Laura, but since I returned to the States, I have become prejudiced against Japanese, even the American born. Before I went to the Islands, I honestly had no prejudice, but when I saw what they were doing out there - I returned with a prejudice. Perhaps ^{my} prejudice will break down at a future date.

Please write soon, dear, I certainly look forward to your letters.

Love
E. Allen & Bruce