



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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Mrs. R. S. Musser

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Madison 7-1700

May 14, 1947

Mother, my precious little Bopper;
How glad I was to get your two
letters! Oh how I love to hear from
you, and how very often I think of
you. I wish it were possible for
me to write more often, but I just
can't seem to squeeze in the time.
I wish you and Daddy didn't live so far
away, so that you could drop in to
see me once in a while! I do get
so lonesome for you.

Well, I'm glad to be back after
my two weeks' trip to Fitch, Kansas
City and Walnut. I spent three days

Fontemps, a writer and a very intelligent man. He later took time out to escort me through their beautiful library, and I learned many interesting things about it. Mr. Fontemps is a fine looking man, and I was delighted to have him take the interest he did in me. I had supper with Jody at the University Dining Room where I enjoyed some very good food. The next evening Philippa Schuyler played - I didn't care for her playing this time as much as I have before. She was late in starting both at the beginning and following intermission. She seemed to do this purposely for effect. I found out later that many people at Fick did not care for her at all, because she acted terribly self centered, and pettish. It's too bad, but it's something I

in Nashville. The Music Festival was lovely, and as at most University Functions there was something doing every minute. In the mornings there were lectures on various subjects, and in the afternoons & evenings the music. The first night I was there, was a presentation of "Madame Butterfly" by members of the Fick Choir. It was an excellent rendition, but the leading soprano was somewhat of a disappointment. I learned that the opera had been given the night before, and the leading soprano, Laura Lafayette, another singer, had done much better than the girl I heard. There had been a tea that afternoon before the opera, and I saw Mrs. Schuyler, and visited with her for a few minutes. She introduced me to the librarian, Anna

felt would happen to her all along - ⁴ - Her mother is largely to blame for it too!

One afternoon before the concert, I happened to be over at the dormitory, and a Mrs. Turner, the house mother, introduced me to Lenora Lafayette, the girl I mentioned earlier, and I found her to be a very lovely person indeed! She took me all around the campus, and showed me the buildings, and sat with me at Philippa's concert.

After the concert, Dr. Johnson, President of Fish, had invited the guests over for tea at his home. I found ^{that} both he & his wife were very fine people indeed, and most interesting and charming - The next afternoon marked the opening of the George Lerchwin Memorial Room. Carl Van Vechten, ex-^{Marie} critic of the New York Times, and a collector of rare & ancient volumes of music had donated

A⁵ large part of his collection of Modern Music to the Fisk Library - It was to be housed in the Gershwin room. There was quite a ceremony - Several prominent people, such as Carl Van Vechten; Virgil Thompson (N. Y. Herald Tribune Music Critic); W. C. Handy (originator of Jazz); Langston Hughes (Outstanding Negro Poet); John W. Work (Composer); and Mr. Johnson, made many interesting speeches. In the evening, there was a concert of contemporary music. Much of it I did not care for, but the Fisk Choir gave a fine performance, and my friend Luora Lafayette, gave a beautiful recital of modern songs. She has a lovely Soprano voice. She is anxious to come to New York for further study, and hopes she

Mrs. Watson & I had Auntie & Mr. W.
Monday, The McPhersons entertained - dinner at
one of the clubs & bridge at their home - I also
was lucky, Tues. noon, we took dinner ~~at~~ with
Mrs. Dobson & her sister & Wolferman's.
Wed. afternoon we called on Mary Catherine, ^{and}
Auntie invited them to dinner & a show -
Also Wed. noon Mrs. Sheldon entertained at
the Mission Bell Country Club - Thursday,
Mary Catherine & I invited Auntie & me to take
dinner with them. They have 3 darling children!
Friday, Mrs. Peters entertained - Such Delicious
Cooking - Crêpe Suzettes mmm! Again I was
lucky at bridge - ~~On~~ Saturday, I visited the
Art Museum, and did some shopping - Carrie
Hobben entertained at the Mission Bell Country
Club, & bridge at her home afterwards. Again I
was lucky! That evening also at 11 PM - I left

can win a scholarship - I told her about
the Marian Anderson Scholarship Fund, and she
thinks she may try for that! On Saturday
the day I left for Kansas City, I found that
the Glee Choir was to give its most outstanding
concert that evening. I was so disappointed at
the idea of missing it that Laura told me
to come to the rehearsals which I did. They
were giving the Star-Spangled Banner of Rossini
which is one of my favorite compositions. The
choir did it beautifully, and I was enchanted!
That evening Joy, Philippa, and I left on the
same train - They to Chicago, and I to Kansas
City - I got there Sunday afternoon. Aunt
Laura & Frank met me at the depot.
Such a week! I never did so much
socializing in all my life - Sun. night, Mr. &
Mrs. Watson dropped in for a round of Bridge

for Chicago - June & Truman met me at the station the next morning, and then her father & mother took us to lunch at The La Grange Country Club - We drove over to June's brother's home to pick up her 3 children - ages - 6, 4 & 17 mos. & red heads - and drove 130 miles to Walnut a village of 2,000 people - June has a tiny little home, and no help - so I pitched in with the house work! - even helped wash diapers - The children & I got along real well - They are cute as the Pickens & very bright! We only got out twice for relaxation I once to an eating place called Jule's Farm that specialized in Danish cooking, and another time to a movie where we enjoyed a wonderful 3rd rate melodrama - Well - June drove me to Mendota where I caught the train to Chicago.

In Chicago, I ran into Eddie Galvin, who immediately took me in charge. He got me

a bedroom which was nicer by far than the 9-
lower. He was also looking after a lady from
Los Angeles who was sailing for England. We
became friends. Mrs. Skeppick (her name) proved
to be a most agreeable person. The night before
she sailed we went to a play. I forgot to
mention that Eddie Sabira wished to be remem-
bered to you, and said that the day before, Starren
had been in Chicago & he, Eddie had looked after him!

Yesterday, Mrs. Burton, came to N. Y.
and I tried hard to get her last night but no
luck. The phone service is far from good at this
point. So today I tried again & we had
lunch together & a fine visit. As she was returning
to Baltimore this PM, we didn't have much time.
So now, I have brought you up to the present.

I was so shocked to hear of Aunt
Lue's trouble, but know she'll come through O.K.
She just has to! It must have been hard to

from your "bopping" silly daughter!
I say every morning I wake up - "What little darling,
precious etc. etc. etc. etc. mother & daddy -

have daddy called away like that, but -
hope he didn't have to be gone too long -
I called Aunt Laura just after I talked to you
and she seemed to be quite calm and cheered.
I also talked to daddy, and he didn't seem
too worried either. I told him to reserve the
cottage for me, as I think I can get home
for a couple of weeks - will keep you posted
however! I told him Jane & Truman would like it
if I could let use it!

I love you both so very, very much -
Indeed my heart aches! Now I detect being
so far away! How have you been?
Remember to let me know so that I can be
home at a moment's notice! You & daddy mean
so much in my life!

Will call you some time this week -
With so much love & devotion