



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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March 18th

Dearest mother;

I just had a note from Daddy
enclosing your letter from
the Hotel Commodore sent
Feb. 11. It was such
a dear, sweet thoughtful
letter that it made me
"blop" & "blimp" furiously.
It's letters like that that
make me realize how
much I love you &



to forgive & forget, for I know you & Daddy don't mean to hurt me, nor I you, and I want you to feel the same about me.

So Kenny sent me a package! Well, I never received it. Hope it wasn't a ring! He certainly is persistent isn't he? Poor boy! Hope he finds the right girl soon!

Daddy also wrote about the letter you both received from Philippa - do you know, since the time in December, that her mother slammed down her receiver in my ear, that they have made no effort

Daddy, & oh how much you mean to² me! Because I love you so, I don't want any unhappiness or worry to come your way, and I often think at times how much unhappiness I unwittingly & unintentionally caused you & daddy, perhaps because you didn't understand me in just the right way! and I didn't have the patience or wisdom to make you see truly what I was about. I know how very sensitive we three are, and I am making myself realize this by trying

to apologize for their extremely unjust
attitude, or even contacted me in any way?
That means that my usefulness as a
friend is over, and they want nothing
further to do with me. I have had a
lot of unperfactions to take in my
life time, but nothing as low & mean
as that. The fact that it is Daddy with
his gifts of candy & money - a person
whom they hardly know and wouldn't
have known except through me, who
means so much to them is the grossest
kind of insult to his intelligence, &
the worst kind of a slap in the face

to me. Who do they think they are,
any way? If its the worst of the
Negro Race coming out, I want
nothing further to do with any of
them I now or at any future time!



I'm sure I've learned
my lesson now, and
can see what a
doddering-old fool I
must have been to
prattle so incessantly
about Brotherhood etc.
The way Marian Anderson
has behaved in

7. Well, darling, have a wonderful
time in Kansas City, and do give
my love to Aunt Laura -

With so much love to you,
Laura Jane -

not writing to you after her visit, 6-
and the way Mr. Fisher treated me
should have warned me long ago,
but no! I go blithely on. All I
can say to you, Darling, is to forgive
me for being such an ass! I hope
never to be taken in that way
again! Negroes may be alright as
such - but only in their place.
Ha! Ha! Funny, isn't it? Well,
we all live & learn I suppose, only
I seem to be doing it the hard way!

Air Mail
#



Mrs. R. D. Musser
1240 West 64th St.
Kansas City
Missouri

Mrs.
Go W. V. Atkins

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

May 26, 1948

Mother, my precious little blooper (cuk! & Shucks!)

(- a tear)

Thank you so very, very much
for your wonderful letter & phone call!

You don't know how wonderfully
you made me feel for I

Am so lonesome for you &
daddy & Alice that I am

merely beside myself. I

am glad though that I
came back for



This might solve your problem of who to get to look after Mary's children, so I should have been in a state of confusion. I suggested that she write to you, and if I hadn't returned. Two important explain more in detail of what she had in things have come up that have somewhat mind! At least you could try her for the changed my plans - The first concerning my summer! She is very handy at gardening friend, & Ethel's son & her little boy & I have arrangements etc. I told her Alice had much the same position and wishes to seek a situation in a with you now, but Alice, you know, private home as housekeeper companion is not well, so I thought Ethel or "what have you" sort of the same might help her out - Along with position that Helen Kogon had. She this, came Mme. Guinnini's suggestion is very anxious to get away from She won't be able to let me have her New York, and live in the country.

place until around the first of July -
so I thought, I could come home
until then - bringing Esther & Bruce
with me, so that she could talk things
over with you as soon as possible -
I would leave for home June 2nd
arriving the night of June 3rd, so
I could celebrate my birthday with
you or come a few days later -
Whatever you say - At any rate
you can let me know Sunday -
With so much love,

Laura Jane —

Aug. 8, 1948

Dearest little "eeker" Mother;

How I do love that precious mama + oh how I miss her - I should so love to be home right now, but as it is now, I won't be home until Sept. 4th or 5th. Bernadine has asked me to stop off on my way home to see her in Detroit for two days. She has asked me so many times to do this that I feel I must make that poor child happy - also Mrs. G. has asked me to have my place until Aug. 31st so that's the way it is -

I had such a nice letter from Popu asking me to visit them in Pittsburgh so shall do so the week-end of Aug. 15th if it is all right with them. I am so anxious to

see those children - also baby drew -

I am glad Philippa thanked you for the gift, and included us all - So far she has made no effort to contact me - neither did she remember my birthday. Oh well, one of these days she'll realize - once she gets away from her mother - But it really was daddy's money, and he should do as he likes with it, so if he wants something done, he should have what he wants - and after all his feelings are involved - not mine! I wouldn't have done it, but what daddy wants is none of my business, so if he's happy about it, I was glad to help him out -

Tippy is in Beaver Falls, and will be there, I guess until the middle of Sept. I don't know how the news about there being no opera for next season will affect her - Very likely, she will sing with other opera companies as she has done in the past. Mr. Giannini said it was just as well they close it for a while, because the type of singers we have now are no good really - They are just a bunch

of stores & wealthy patrons. He thinks Tippy was the best voice of all the soprano of the "Met" - and thinks it is to bad she can't take better care. Charming even Mrs. Williams for a long time, but have talked to her on the phone. Next week we may take a boat ride around Manhattan Island - It's a trip we must take, and so on all day tomorrow -

Did you know that Amette's younger mother died in July? Amette is going to take in laundry, and despite her poor health has done more work in her store for children. I think I shall go & see her tomorrow -

Thank you so much for the engraved messages from the Rugs and Sylvia Mabel. I'm sorry that Sylvia's handwriting is so bad, but I'm quite moved by the letter - Susan went at all nice to me when I visited her with Aunt Marian, and perhaps this will teach her that on any occasion is no secret or security in this world. After all, she could be much worse off, and she is most fortunate to have

her children by her side. Was interested to hear that Hazel & ~~Arthur~~ Gilbert Dudley were at their place - Does Sylvia know Sam in N. Y. It's funny she never asked me to visit them at Pocono. That one time she was so nice & friendly to me - Oh well, if the relatives don't care for me, I should worry - At least I won't have to bother about them! If their consciences aren't functioning, I might as well forget them! God bless them!

I had a letter from the Van Kicks today. They will be in New York Tuesday so hope to see them! Have already seen Ruth W. & daughter. Took them and Ruth's sister-in-law to dinner and to that Memorial Opera at the Greenwich Village Presbyterian Church. It was Prokofiev's "The Queen of Sheba" - one of the darlings of light opera I have ever seen - brilliantly done! We all enjoyed it tremendously - especially little Ruthie who was thrilled to death with it all - Had her program taken back stage to be autographed by the members of the Co. which delighted her tremendously - The next evening took them to see "Fanny's Rivalry" - my 26th time! Next week, we shall no doubt do more high jinking!



About that settle - perhaps we can have one
made for Thelma - She certainly doesn't want
anything fancy - I shall no doubt see her when
I go to Pittsburgh as Beaver Falls isn't very far
from there, and will ask her what color motif she
has in furniture.

I had a nice week-end at Mrs. Klein's -
We drove up there Fri. afternoon, and got there around
9 P.M. only to find the front door wide open - Her place
is called "White Rock", and her nearest neighbors are
a quarter of a mile away - She has no phone, but
does have electricity. It's really a lovely place, and
she has spent much money & effort on it! Well,
she doesn't have much furniture, and we found every-
thing intact despite the open door! It was lovely &
cool in the country, and a nice respite from the city -
We came back on Sunday, and her driving over those
mountain roads had me nearly in a fit. The way

she zipped around those curves at 45 MPH was something, let me tell you! But we did get to N. Y. intact - only I'll never understand how!

Have seen Hilda two or three times since she's been here - She seems very happily married, and right now is busy house hunting. Certainly wish her luck! She's much thinner and looks prettier than I have ever seen her - She always inquires after you and daddy -

I have a neighbor across the way - a 60 year old Lieut. Colonel, who for some reason or other decided his radio was annoying me, and sent me a vase of a dozen roses as an apology - Somewhat puzzled, I acknowledged the receipt of the roses - only to have him send me 6 beautifully bound books on music - including a most interesting autobiography of the late Stephen Zweig. As you know I do not like receiving gifts from strange men whom I've never seen - but he phoned to say he was lonely, and my music made him think I was an artist - I think he was much disgusted to find I was nothing of

the sort. I also wrote him a note on receipt of the books and told him that his sudden visit at the 11th was a kindly nature, embarrassed me some what - and when he explained that I was just a piece in the chess - moved - I felt I had to get him straight - do you think I should return the books? I certainly do get interested in various happenstances through no fault of mine. If

Well daddy, I shall write to him very soon -
With so much love to my darling -
Your devoted son Paul

Jan. 26, 1948

Mother, Darling;

Your two letters came
today, and they made
me feel so happy—

I guess you do love this
"funny little business,"
don't you? I do miss
you & daddy so much,
and wish that we
could all be
together.



You were very brave to try walking by yourself on the street, but don't take unnecessary chances. It's good that you do get out though, because your leg does need the exercise.

I wish you could have seen me the day I left the Baltimore. I sent 6 pieces home, but I had just as many left to take to the Dorset. They gave me a fine room, with twin beds on the second floor. Everyone is very nice to me here, and I like it

better than the Baltimore. I have been getting along fine in my exercise, and am starting the third movement of my exercise. (We) now still hold a fascination for me. It's happy as no happy - I expect am going to see "If I Should" with the Empires. That will make the third time they have taken me to the opera. Wednesday, I took them to see "The Winkles-Bay" at the Empire. After the play, they took me across the street to the stage

don of the Metropolitan. The "Magic
Flute" had been playing thru with
Eleanor Steber in the lead. I had
mentioned to Dorothy that when I first
met Miss Steber in her company, she
had been very stuck up to me.

Dorothy said that it was too bad, because
she really was very nice, so this time
we saw Miss Steber again, & Dorothy
took pains to identify me to her, so
then she was most gracious. Tonight
they are going to introduce me to
Keri Stevens. All this must mean

a great deal to Dorothy, but it doesn't
to me - since I can mean so little
to Miss Steber or Miss Stevens.

Mrs. Crowther warned me jokingly
not to be a "bobby-soxer". Told her
there was no danger of that.
They rib me a good deal about
Tippy, but I told them that
in Tippy's case it was
different since she needed
appreciation of the right
kind. I didn't stop to
talk to her yesterday,
but she saw me



as she was leaving the choir, and waved
to me. I stopped by the Wellington the
other day, and left a note for her
asking her to dinner and the theater
the end of this week, so hope she
can make it. So far she seems like a
very nice, lovable person. but I have
had such ill success with other
artists that I'm on my guard this time!
Mrs. Crowther said that she had heard
that just after Tippy was married,
the apartment where she was staying
burned, and she lost all her things besides
some valuable operative scores that
can't be replaced! Artists, Squaw, have troubles
too!

Teddyson may stay home from study,
even into an old friend of mine, Amelia
Ehrenworth, whom I used to know at Willard.
She'd seen her for six years. she married this
last Dec. and is living in Jackson Heights.
You met her, Stuart. she plays the violin
very well.

Sometimes I wish I am taking Mme.
Giesbrecht to dinner at the Quaker.

Wed. & Thurs. I go to The Rose
Kavalin & Gatterdaumerung, & that eve. or
the next will be my date with Tippy -

Last night at the Broadway
Tabernacle, they all told me again how
much they enjoyed the tea I gave them
the Sunday before, after meeting, Margaret
& Anthony came home with me for a short
visit.

As always, I love you so very
much & want you to be happy
with me -

- Anna Jane -



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

From the Hotel Dorset #201

Sixth Ave. & 54th

New York City -

4 "Deserving" people suffer -
I had a card from Thelma.
She was in Cincinnati as you
know with the "Yoo" Opera Co. Yester-
day, she and her husband left for
a tour of the country - as tourists -
her work being ended, and will
enjoy themselves in this way until
some time in August when they return
to New York - Madame Bianchini
was in town last week, and called
me - between trains - She and Mrs.
Federer left for California for the
remainder of the summer - Her
husband will stay in N.Y. for a

if Daddy could just forgive her July 7, 1948
With so much love -
"Ecks" & "Blops" & "Shucks" -
- Same Jane -
Mother darling; ("Many" ecks &
"Blops")
How I loved the dear
letter you wrote me, and oh - how
I miss being away from home this
summer. What fun you must be
having with Mary and the children,
and how I do hope the letter will
not prove too much for you -
You are surely doing a wonderfully
thoughtful thing - having them all
at the lake, and sometimes I wonder,

if they know what an ordeal it².
is for you - with your leg as it is -

It had been terribly warm
here - and the heat made me
rather languid, and not too well -
However, I rested, and today, as it is
so much cooler out, I feel more like
myself.

God blessed Mrs. Williams has
been so dear to me. How Irish
you knew her - The Crowthers too, have
been wonderful, so sociably, the
summer, thus far, has been rather
enjoyable. I haven't seen too much
of Esther. She has been laid up

with a bad infection, and so she is getting ready³.
to leave for Wales, all her time so taken up -
I think she was terribly disappointed not to
be with us, but I certainly could see her side
of it, and don't blame you in the least for
not wanting to take her on trial - A child
does composite things so - However, she is
such a dear person, and I do hope, these
people with whom she will travel to take as
a companion & nurse to their child, will be
able to help her out. I do not like to see

on "what's wrong with the Universe." I
let her talk all she wanted to, and
she enjoyed herself very much! She
really is quite smart, but her head
is too much in the clouds! However,
she did have many worthwhile ideas
that showed a very shrewd perception on
her part. As she went out Bonnie
creeped in, and really, I have never seen
her look so young or so pretty. The
"sister" she was with was a charming
young girl with a very infectious smile,
and a great enthusiasm for the new
night she was seeing. "Now," said
Bonnie, "let's do something! Where are

few days, and then will join⁵
them. How much I am indebted
to this dear lady, and how kind
she has been to try to find me
a place to stay, when I return.
She is the kind of friend that
knows exactly what I need spirit
ually, so I feel that at last I
have found some one who understands.
It has made a big difference in my
mental outlook, and I think that
when one has friends of this kind,
one can endure almost anything.
That is why, this time, it was easy

for me to be nice to Mrs. King,
and right now, I feel that, in the future,
nothing that she may say or do, can
hurt me again - the same with Roger -
It makes all the difference in the world
when some one believes in you -

As I told you, Bonnie was
in town, and, oh my dear! what
"hi-jinks" we had! - The life of a
sorority alumna on a "binge" must
be strenuous indeed. She & her "sorority
sister" came to N.Y. from Washington
D.C. when they did a terrific amount
of sight-seeing. She called me

the following morning, but I was asleep, so I
didn't get the call I suppose, except 17 PM.
I managed to reach her, she & her "sister"
were going to Radio City, and the show would
be out until eleven, but I told them to run
up early - One of Mrs. Williams' friends came
to call on me that evening, and stayed until
Bonnie and her friend departed! Mrs. Williams was
a Columbia graduate, named Paul Scott, a nurse -
she is an anthropologist - a follower of the
Bushelstein cult - Minnie Abigail belonged
to the same cult - and was full of ideas

his relationship with Philippa - I have
so many friends that are much more
worthwhile than she! This is a smart,
heartless little girl as spoiled as she can
be, and she hates to have daddy
give her up because she loves his
money, not him. Believe me, she
knows what she's doing - I'm disgusted
with both her & her mother. Her father
is the only decent one. Others in
the music world dislike her & her
mother intensely, and everyone says
that she's a spoiled little girl so with
nothing to offer in either her composition
or piano. ~~that~~ I really would be better

all your celebrity friends?"

9-

"Well," I said, "It's pretty late
but I will see what I can do!" So I
called the Crowthers. Dorothy was just
getting ready to go to bed, but Mrs.
C. was still up - well, they were
delighted, and said they would do
what they could to show Bonnie
the sights, so we went first to
the Hampshire House for Cocktails.
Then Dorothy took us to the Hotelo
Guerre, St. Regis; & Mac Park Playa.
Bonnie was certainly impressed
by it all, so was her "sister."

Bonnie looked very pretty, and ¹⁰⁻ quite thin in her black gown -
Her friend, a young girl in her early
twenties, looked very youthful and
full of enthusiasm. Dorothy
liked her the best. We got to bed
by 3 AM -

Sister Penie also spent
the night with me, and took
her sight-seeing the next day
until my feet were so sore I could
hardly walk, so I spent the
week-end staying home &
resting. I suppose you had

this works down by the river for the
children?

I am wondering when Aunt Phyllis
will be in New York? and the other Reids?
Please tell them not to plan to travel
as soon as to do some things with them.

How about Chicago - Daddy agrees
I shall see 25th of the 25th he wants me to
buy him a pair boots on Prairie which I
am sure will appreciate. I should not
think Daddy would be so concerned about

Air Mail



Mrs. R. D. Munner
c/o The Madden Pine Beach Resort
Gull Lake
Brainerd
Minnesota

From The Hotel Buckingham #1206
5th Street & 6th Ave -
New York City -

Denish woman, is most interesting -

Every Friday night the church has a "social"; and I help at that too! Next week I have charge of it -

On July 30, Mrs. Klein has asked me off to her country home in Mass. for the week-end - We'll return to New York by Aug. 1st.

My composition is coming along slowly but surely - I have written two songs - and still have the last movements of my sonata to finish! I am heartily sick of it. Please write again soon, dearest - Love, Lottie

Have my Laundry Box and Duffel Bag arrived yet?

July 19, 1948



Dearest little "Eckie"
Mother;

Oh, how I miss my baby this summer, and how hard it is for me to be so far away, when I long to be with you and Daddy more than anything else - It has been so hot here that I am perspiring profusely all the time, & my clothes look a sight - Shields don't do any good at all - However,



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

From The Buckingham Hotel #1206
New York city, N. Y. -



Aug. 23

Dearest Mother (eck & shucks!)

How I love to get letters from my baby - and how I did enjoy the phone call yesterday - I think of you so often, and it won't be long now until I will be home, -

I had promised Bernadine that I would spend a day with her in Detroit, but should hate to miss

Margaret's visit, however, I did see her in June, and in as much as she hasn't seen you, perhaps, she won't miss me! In all the time I have been in New York, Margaret hasn't made much effort to keep in touch with me, and when I do visit her, she isn't very tactful, so between you and me, I don't think she cares for me much, and is only nice to me because of you - for she adores you, mother, as who wouldn't?

Phelma was at church on Sunday, and
sang beautifully. She is so darling, and
when I introduced her to Mrs. Kultsaus & Ruth,
she said "Do you know Mrs. Musser?" and
when Mrs. K. said she did, she said, "She is
a wonderful woman; how I wish I knew her
better." You see how everyone loves you!
I hope when I reach you age they'll say the
same thing about me! You have been so
wonderful to everyone, and I am so proud of
the fact that you are my mother.

So keep well, and be with me a
long time, for there are not many like you
and daddy in this world today -
Your loving
Laura Jane

Mc Hotel Biltmore #743
— L J M — New York City
Jan. 8, 1948

Daddy dear;

Your letter and income Tax data came today. I am afraid I haven't been as charitable to institutions as I might have been. Too many of them have become a racket, and have adopted policies that I do not agree with. I prefer giving my money (when I do - which is not often) to where I know it will help; but private donations, such as these, I suppose are not tax exempt!

I am glad that I meant something to you while I was home. This time, I did not feel as if you or mother much cared whether I lived or died! Of course I took the strain of Xmas week into consideration, but - forgive me for saying so - it almost seemed as if you welcomed & preferred the company of outsiders to mine. With them, at least, so it seemed

you could find things of mutual interest to talk about - while with me, you & mother seemed to be at a loss - I wanted to get into your hearts by asking you about local "doings", and was already to pitch in, and have a good time with those whom I hardly know now, ^{who} hardly know me. Of course, your Little Falls friends are your life. I appreciate that fact more than you realize - but when one's life has been uprooted as mine has been - to another clime where I spend 8 or 9 mos. of the year in very different circumstances than Little Falls offers, it takes time for me to get adjusted, and you can't blame me for feeling disturbed & unsettled at first - It would be easier if I had some sort of companion or friend whom I could depend on, but when I live all alone - having no one to go to with my problems - and a big city is full of them - and what is worse still - sensing that you & mother don't wish to be bothered, or be of service when I am puzzled & upset by the inconsistencies of what I have been taught to

— L J M —

believe is fine & right - (you know you & mother get impatient with me when I'm down and blame it on my time of month) - I feel as if I would like to "end it all". My problems are just as important to me as yours are to you, and were you to tell me about them, I would listen calmly & sympathetically, but when I use the privilege of "Mother, father, daughter" relationships, and try to come to you for help, you turn me away by saying, "Now are you trying to get us upset again?" So, what am I to think, and what am I to do?! Of course, I realize mother isn't well, but you & she were that way to me long before her illness, by telling me that I was trying to "start an argument". Why must you always believe that my motive for coming to you, when I need help and encouragement so sorely, is one designed to make you unhappy? That is farthest from my

mind! I have never, in my whole life, wanted to make you or mother unhappy. I love to, in normal conversation, discuss events with you - for you have such a keen mind - that it is a delight to converse with you - but while I like discussions, like you, I hate arguments - for in the latter case, emotions are used not reason - Still, we all have a right to our opinions (if based on reason), and disagreements - The kind that arise out of looking at things in different lights - are inevitable if both minds are keen - in fact, if some one doesn't agree with me, and his reason is sound - then I am grateful for the difference, for I learn, and thus add to my fund of knowledge - One of the most interesting evenings I ever spent was in the company of President Gould and his wife. I found them such stimulating people -

I have often thought of coming home to you & mother, but each time I have done so, it creates too much an emotional disturbance that is bad for us all - Part of it is based on your un-

— L J M —

willingness to understand me, and part on my incapacity to cope with certain situations due to long periods of separation. I love you & mother to the point of distraction, and am willing, if need be, to swallow my personality, individuality, in short all that is "me" to be of service to you.

Materialistically, you both have done more for me than I could ever do for you in a million years; but please do not think me ungrateful if I were to say that I could have done with a little less of materialism and more of "love" & "understanding". You see, at heart, I'm ~~of~~ the artistic group (smiles). I don't a particularly stable temperament to have, I admit, but it is one that will repay you or anyone else ten-fold for any "love" or encouragement & belief in the basic goodness of our desires & motives you could offer ~~me~~ ^{us} - for "love" in art is a selfless love. We are above being mean

or petty. If some of us are, it is because we have been spoiled by too much world adulation, and have failed to understand the basic meaning of life itself. Often times also, it is because we have been the least understood that ~~our~~ personalities have become distorted. Our feelings are at white heat - and respond so quickly to love - or indifference. What in 9 times out of 10 is of no consequence to the average individual, with us it takes on a significance of major importance. In no one else, except the artist, does emotional temperature rise to the heights of sublime happiness only to fall into the very nethermost regions of despondency. That is why we need encouragement so badly, and believe me, when it is given, we are sublimely happy, for we are creative, and no matter how blundering the attempts, we like to be told that our creations make you, the people, happy. People like us, couldn't be selfish if we wanted to. We are happy when others are happy, and we suffer when others suffer.

— L J M —

That is why situations at home, that I have referred to - make me feel so unhappy & unwanted, for to have you & mother, unhappy or emotionally disturbed, makes me feel far worse than you do, and thus harder for me to "get over" or forget -

About Mrs. Schuyler, I am glad she had the decency to write mother about the cat, but her conduct to me over the phone was so unjust, (for I hadn't anything to do with returning the cat, nor known that mother had done so without letting me know) (she wouldn't even let me explain) - that our friendship is at an end - Philippa, too, was most rude to me the next day at "Nausel & Guitel." She had brought mother's two telegrams, and literally flung them in my face, asking me how I could explain them (when I knew nothing of them), and never thanking me for her xmas gifts or the opera ticket. Of course, you can do as you like in your relations to the Schuylers,

but I want no more of them. Anyone who has the nerve to behave so rudely - to one who has loved them as I have - shows him to have no heart what so ever - Mrs. Schuyler is an extremely selfish, domineering woman, and her utterly unnecessary concern over the cat - when I had done my best by it ^{and was in no wise to blame for its return} shows her to have an unbalanced mind! Her false assumption that, because we have money, we have servants (loathsome term) shows her to be an extremely shallow person.

Thank you so much again for your letter. At least your letters make me feel that you love me -

I went to church at the Congregational Blue Tabernacle (said name) Sunday - Miss Notieka was one of 4 choir members, and has a beautiful voice. I hope she sings next Sunday - The church was scarcely filled - Mr. Chalmers is not popular, and his sermon reminded me of an exhortation by an old time revivalist.

With dearest & sincerest love to you always -
Your devoted, Laura Jane -

Feb. 24, 1948

Father dear:



What a nice new note you wrote me. I wish it had been longer for a visit with you and mother is what I cherish more than anything else in the world!

Yes, it was too bad that long, & Esther's time was too taken up for me to do much for them. I had

planned two nice parties for them - one ² with Madame Ginnini and her husband as guests, and the other with Madame Votjka and her husband as guests. The first they accepted the dinner part, and the second they turned down completely, due to a cocktail party with the Bankers as hosts. I was rather embarrassing having to explain this to Madame Votjka, as she had expected to meet them, but I did my best, and I guess she understood! Esther took me to see "High Button Shoes" - a musical comedy which I didn't enjoy at all. However, it was nice of her to put herself out! When you see George, ask him to tell you about our struggle to the Metropolitan.³ Quick Anne! You know how he loves (!?) music! He's such a dear!

Today, Mrs. Guinnin asked me to go to a show with her, but this morning she called to say she had a bad cold! so I studied instead of doing anything else. This time of the year things seem to drag, so, don't you think?

I am so sorry that Aunt Edie had to go through another operation, but anyway she came out of it better than expected! What a nerve wrecking experience it must be for Alice.

Am glad also that Aunt Laura⁴ is better.
This winter, my health has been, on the whole,
very good, outside of that one cold I had!

Told Madame Votjkeg all about
you & mother, and our place; how we entertained
Miss Anderson etc. She's very anxious to visit us,
and meet you & mother, so I asked her to come
up May 7th & 8th. She's a very jolly person,
quite fat, and homely, very slave looking, you
know, but I think you'll like her. She has a
beautiful voice, and I love to hear her sing.
She's taking part in the "Rose Kavalier," May
6th. Told you, didn't I, that she sings
in the Church choir at the Congregational

- 5 -

Church where I have been attending
services ever since New Years? Like our
Church at home, it has had trouble
with its minister, who like Mr. McNew
had worn out his welcome. He finally
left the first of Feb., and we
have had visiting ministers from
other churches. Last Sunday
we had Dr. Bainton of the
Ayle Divinity School, who
preached the first good
sermon I have heard in
some time. However,
I still maintain that
one can get as much



spiritual uplift from good music, as⁻⁶⁻
from fine sermons. Madame Votipke's
husband, Mr. Groth, is the organist, and he
plays beautifully. Every week, he introduces
the works of a new composer, and I
think his playing is of the same high caliber
as that of the late Pietro Yon of St. Patrick's
Cathedral. Despite the excellent music,
very few people come to our church.
Last Sunday, for example, there were only
45. If only a church could have good music
and practical, down to earth, sermons, also.
I think there should be a discussion
period when one could talk over the

points mentioned by the minister. - How I think⁻⁷⁻
the church would have a fine impact on our society,
and until that happens, thank of all the church some of
us will have to better to, as well as a third rate musical
performance. I wish Madame Votipke could stay for
our church service & sing in our choir. Surely I think
she would sing for us if we asked her to!
Tomorrow, I am taking her and Mr. Groth to see
"Hawaii's Dancers." Have seen it many times, but
the music and comedy is so good, I could still
see it many times more. Mme. Votipke likes

⁵musical comedies better than drama.
I also told her how you'd put yourself out
for her, and kept her all to yourself.

It's too bad you and mother didn't
feel up to a trip to Florida. You could fly,
you know. It only takes about 7 or 8 hrs.
by air! Sometime, daddy, when you fly
west, I'm going to screw up enough courage
to fly with you. I think we'd make very good
travelling companions, don't you?

Thanks again for your grand letter,
and my deepest love to you & mother & Alice.
- Laura Jane -

Air Mail



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

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

June 11, 1948

Mother, my precious little Ecker & Poppy;
What a darling, darling
mother you are to write to me such
a grand birthday card, give me the touch,
and on top of it all, write me such a
grand letter. Love you so dearly, and
hate this business of being such a
long way from home,
and those whom I love,
and who love me -
above all, I hated having
to celebrate my birthday here



even, tho' my friends tried to make it
 a happy occasion. I got cards from
 Lillian, Chae Keys (a Barnabus girl); Mrs.
 Larrabee, and of course my friends back home,
 and Madame Volzka. This last was a
 scream, and looked something like this.



LET YOURSELF GO
 ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

DO EXACTLY AS YOU PLEASE

DON'T SUPPRESS A YEN

IT WILL BE A WHOLE LONG YEAR

TIL THIS DAY COMES AGAIN.

My thy card was a dear little
 henky. - She has been quite busy of
 late, and Donly sees her at church.
 This next week, she expects to be
 out of town for a month - going

to Springfield, and Cincinnati, Ohio. Ethel has
 I would miss her very much. She said if I want
 for her apartment, willing to be persuaded of that up,
 and her husband's social obligations, she would
 be more of me and do many things with me -
 she said that this year had been a most difficult
 one for her, for Mrs. Thole was more demanding of her
 things than her first husband was. - But they
 do enjoy each other so much - and things would
 be different when they got settled! She does all the
 house work, laundry etc. herself - No wonder, she hasn't
 time. She thinks so much of you and Alice,

"And wants to meet Daddy. So far she seems like a very sincere person - She asked me if I did any music copying and I said "yes" - once in a while. She said, Mr. Broth wanted some one to copy some music for him, and I said I'd be glad to do it.

Madame Giannini is writing to you. That letter, you wrote, made her so happy - I move into her apt. next week - It hasn't been so bad here, but its location is much more convenient than this place - Tonight Madame & Mr. Richita, & I are going to see "The Insect Comedy" at the Century Theater.

The Crowthers gave me such a nice birthday party with a cake in everything. Mrs. Crowther took me to the movie, "The Pirate"

at Radio City. It was very good - a
 technicolor Production of the Alfred Lunt,
 Lynn Fontaine Vehicle - I was very tired,
 however, and went sound asleep during a
 part of it. Mrs. Crothers sat in the seat
 ahead of me, & didn't notice this. Afterwards,
 we went up to her place for the cake &
 ice cream - Dorothy joining us - so that
 evening I didn't get home until 3 AM -
 They also gave me a lovely straw purse
 from Bermuda.



Mrs. Klein called
 several times, but I haven't
 seen her as yet. She wants
 me to go to the country with
 her for a week, but I don't think

the management wants me to be gone that long, and I don't care to be gone that long either, & for I want to finish my work. Margaret Taylor has asked me up to Wellesley for the week-end of the 21st. I will be very nice to see her after such a long period of not seeing her - Last Sunday, as you know I took dinner with Helen King at the Abbot. The management there is always nice to me, and I think that impressed her (she very nearly didn't get in there) for, for once, she wasn't insulting - but she still talks about "money", and how wonderful May & Roger are - never one word as to what am I doing - or any compliments at all.

Nice that I don't care - this last being emphasized! - and don't give it love if it is this good - I don't prefer it to being home - to be that, I mean, above my home family, and it really tells me to be away from them - to this who they are committed to offer - well, I guess it takes all kinds to make a world.

By the way, Mary Taylor is in town. She & Marion are short of the New Location. Margaret & Mary both visited the Modern Art gallery when Helen King asked to go after lunch, & took me along for company - I was very much surprised to see Mary - Oh, good, I am all accounts so surprised to be so ill as to be confined to my room - so I was much surprised to hear that she wasn't

Find a good deal-taking Mary along for com-
pany - when I asked to see him, she was shocked
and said he never saw anybody - Personally, I
think Morgan is one of the most selfish, conceited
persons I have ever heard of, and I think Mary
is being a fool to be with him - Yesterday, she
called me, and asked me to please contact Hen-
rietta who has been very weak since her operation
on New Year's day - Mary said above all for me
not to let Henrietta know that she was in town,
but if I thought she needed help to let Mary know,
and Mary would try to see her - exulting! She had
completely devoted herself to Morgan & his whims.
Well, I called Henrietta, & satisfied Mary that
all was well - I think Mary is crazy! but that's
her business!

I am so sorry you & Alice are having
such a time with Aunt Ida. Poor darling!

Wonder if she ever guesses how much a
burden she is - Don't awful what old age
can do to one? I was so in hopes that
Alice could get away for a little while &
visit me, but I guess that's out for the time
being. It would be wonderful if Esther could
take care of Aunt Ida. She said she would
love doing it too, and that would spare you &
Alice a lot of worry - Esther has an offer now
to go to Texas with a family, but she hates to go
so far away - Did you see
much of Louise? How
does she look?



Incidentally, I
received a long telegram
from Marion Adderson the
other day - asking how we all

was etc. It was worked very nicely, and¹⁰
surprised & touched me very much!

Thank my first lesson with Mr.
Giannini yesterday - The last movement
is coming along slowly but surely - When
I finish it, I would like to start writing pieces
for children!

I do miss you all so much, &
get so homesick at times, I cry - but everyone
here is so nice to me, and try in so many
ways to make life bearable for me that I
am deeply touched by it all!

Please write to me soon, you
blessed lamb, and do have a lovely
happy summer -
with many kisses & hugs

touched in with scenes of love -
Thank you -

Thanks for the envelopes -



MADAME THELMA VOTIPKA—
375 RIVERSIDE DRIVE #12 AA
NEW YORK CITY—

AFTER JUNE 27 FOR ONE MONTH— % THE ALMS HOTEL

CINCINNATI, OHIO.



With so much love to my "Eckie" &
"Bopper" - Your devoted, Laura Jane

June 15, 1948

That darling little precious mama—
Bless your dear heart for
sending me the cards, and the
enclosed note about Cousin Guilford's
reception of my letter to him - I'm glad
he enjoyed it. I want my mission in
life to make those with whom I come
in contact with - happy - for there is
so much sadness and misunderstanding
in this world - all because people are
afraid to be themselves. Maybe one of
these days, I can completely conquer

my tendency to extreme sensitivity by trying to remember that others
can't be made over, and to learn to love them anyhow.

Last night I had to dash down to Mrs. Gianinini
to pay my check for the three month's occupancy, and when I move
in Wed. or Thursday, Mrs. Feder, the secretary, will explain the rest
to me. They are making it much easier than Miss Brown ever did; bless
their dear hearts. I am sending quite a bit of my stuff home -
There will be five summer Plaquettes (3 pink & two blue) to be sent to
the cleaners. They are all mine! Then the sheets, too, are mine, &
I will ink them in the corners with my initials, so you'll know them.
Also the pillow cases - The colored ones belong to you - I am also sending
my four "throw" rugs - pink, blue, green & burgundy - also to be sent
to the cleaners - Please tell Alice to store them in the Dark
Closet in boxes marked with my name - so they will be all ready
for me when I go to N. Y. in the winter time - Mrs. Feder hopes
to get an apt. for my very own by then -

After this, I came back to the apt. at 3:10 to get
dressed for the theater - Took Helma, and her husband to see "Annie Get
Your Gun" - We all enjoyed it tremendously - I didn't mind seeing it for
the third time! But it made me a little homesick for you & Alice. After
the show, Mr. Roth treated us to some ice cream at Schaffts, and
then home - all of us going together in a taxi - On Thursday, they leave
for a month's vacation - They will spend most of the time in Cincinnati.
When I told Helma about the nice things you say about her,
she beamed from ear to ear, and said she'd love to hear from you

When you have the time - She made me
laugh heartily at the time she has trying
to make people get her name correctly
spelled & pronounced. Seems, a telegram
came for her, with her name so badly mis-
spelled that the apartment manager said no
one of that name lived there - The company however,
finally got it through to her - Another time,
she went to visit a friend, and they announced
her name as "Pocahontas" - to her friends'
discomfiture and bewilderment. I never
knew anyone that made me laugh as much
as she does - She told me she has a
friend she wants to share with me, and
hopes I'll see something of her this summer.
She certainly is a dear, good soul!

Air Mail
#



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

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

emotional reactions, & think April 9, 1948
Calmly & logically -

Dearest Mother, well, darling - until I see
you - all my most devoted
Yours & daddy's letters just
came. And was I ever glad to get them!

Was that ever a surprise to
know that Bernie called!

You did quite all right to
tell him where I was, for he
is a dear boy, & we have had
many good times together.

And of course is not to
imply that I am in
love with him, but



2
Yes, Aulis was right! I had asked her these are times when one needs a male² -
to see the opera with me! She loves good escort, and he fills the bill nicely,
music, and has a sweet singing voice. Just one more week and I'll be home!
himself, and I wanted her to see & hear a Decca scarcely believe it! It seems as if
good performance! I have also asked Grace & I have been away for centuries! I will
Patty, Mrs. Gullfillon, Helen Butcher, Dick & be a beautiful time of year to be home
Jimmy or in their absence - Adeline B. & too, for I love spring in Minnesota! We
Ruth & Hubert - (I haven't heard about the surely will have many grand times to-
two men - whether they can go - I mean, but gether; however, the minute you seem to
as you say - all that can be attended to get tired, I shall leave, for I don't want
when I get home!

Last night, Madame Ginnini,
Mr. Richter, & I were together. They invited
me to dinner, & I invited them to see the eight tickets for "Rose Parolin" -
Thank you so much for ordering

⁴The H. B. Shaw play "Man & Superman" -
with Maurice Evans. Had seen it once before
but didn't mind seeing it again - It is a
sophisticated drama with lots of spice &
humor. Evans is wonderful in it. The Richlers
our such good company, & we all enjoyed
ourselves so much! On our way to the
dining room, we ran into Mr. Martinelli of
Metropolitan Opera fame - He is a handsome
white haired elderly man, and most charming
to meet. I seem to be making a collection
of opera personalities, don't I?

Remember when we saw Oklahoma
yours ago? Well, the other evening I had dinner

at the Jean Daries Restaurant - (Madame⁵
Votipka introduced me to the place), and
I sat next to ~~one~~ of the most beautiful
young girls I have ever seen. She & I
had tables next to each other, & were eating
alone - well, we got to talking
as lovely people will - and
I found out that she was
Joann Roberts who played
the female lead 'Laurie'!
She is married & has a
little 2 yr. old son.
She hasn't been on the
stage for three



"Had the lead as 'Mimi' & was one of the best 'Mimis' I have seen. She is the only Negro singer with the New York City Opera Co., and has a beautiful voice. She was also the winner of the Maieau Anderson Scholarship award several years ago.

So Jim married Betty. Altho' it was a most ~~of~~ unbecomg act of thoughtlessness & no end stupid after the way Betty acted to him last fall & he still has his own life to live, and we probably shouldn't judge him too harshly

years - altho' she is one of the most popular young actresses in Showbusiness, and has had many flattering offers - "I love my home & little family," she said simply, "and want my son to be older before I go on the stage again." After dinner I went to see the movie, "Winter Meeting" with Betty Davis as the lead! It was very good as all her movies are -

Have been attending some of the operas at City Center - "La Boheme" being the best of the three performances I saw - The Negro Soprano, Camilla Williams,

As he is a grown man, and therefore his own master. I do leave Alice in a spot and it's lucky she has us! Both boys have no sense of moral obligation what so ever, and being in the Army has hardened them, & made them value the finer things of life less seriously - I blame acts of this kind on the evils of Society - not on the individual! We can help situations of this kind, by being more tolerant & understanding ourselves, & trying for a more wholesome evaluation of conditions. I am sure, in the end that things will become adjusted between Alice & her boys if she can control her

Air Mail



SAVE THE EASY WAY
BUY U.S. BONDS ON
PAYROLL SAVINGS



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

310 Riverside Dr. #1014
1/2 city, N. Y. -

March 18, 1948

Dearest Daddy;



Thank you so much
for your letter enclosing
mother's Feb. letter
and Philippa's program.

So you still correspond
with her! Well, I'm
glad if you think
she's worth it, but ~~not~~

→ neither →

she nor her
mother have

³ of friendship & money than you
or mother have, because I knew
them several years before you
both met them, and was
responsible for having them meet
you, but it appears they have
forgotten all the good things I
have done for them, and have
resorted to a low, vulgar materialism.
Yes, daddy dear, I hate to see you
"used," and that is what I am
afraid they are doing, since

ever apologized for their extremely
rude & uncalled for conduct to
me, and it looks very much
as if both Philippa and her
mother are capitalizing on
you at my expense - when
the return of the cat was really
mother's & your idea, and not
mine at all. In other words
they have discarded me, like
an old shoe, when I have done
more for them ~~than~~ ^{with} both offerings

4-
They made no effort to try to
make things "right" with me.
You must learn, darling, to
discriminate between sincerity &
Common flattery. I know you use
a great deal of wisdom in choosing
your business associates, and you
must use the same wisdom in
judging other people as accurately.
However, it's your business - your
relationship with Philippa, and
all I can do is to warn you to
be careful. If I were you I

would discontinue making gifts⁵⁻
of money to her, or giving her
expensive gifts of any kind. It's
quite all right to write to her, or
send her cards, or some small



inexpensive trinkets if
you like. After all,
I think I know their
type a little better than
you do, dear, because
I see that sort of thing
so often in New York.
Surgical people who
know the Schuylen

Be careful!

I had such a nice week-end with Jim & Lynne, and they both inquired very lovingly after you & mother.

I am so glad you are looking forward to meeting my friend, Madame Votyska. Her personality reminds me some what of Mr. Rupp - in that she seems to have a very wholesome effect on the people who come in contact with her. Incidentally, I believe she told me she likes to play bridge (I'm not sure.)

Better than I do have called Mrs. Schuyler a "schemer," a person who will stop at nothing to get what she can for herself and child.

Both she & Philippa are extremely spoiled & self centered. There is hope for improvement in Philippa for she is young, and can learn, but her mother is a Southerner of the "old school," and Alice can tell you what that means, for she has had to live among them in Atlanta & Monroe. So again, I repeat, dear -

8-

I do hope you are having a nice visit with Aunt Laura J. She's been so ill this winter - that I am sure yours & mother's visit will be like a tonic to her! How I wish you could come on & see me! I miss you both so very, very much!

Please write to me soon. You know how much I love to hear from you both -

With so much love,

Laura Jane -

P.S. I had such a nice letter from George & Esther

Air Mail



Mr. R. D. Munser
1240 West 64th St.
Kansas City
Missouri

To Mrs. W. T. Atkins

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

Dec. 31, 1947

— L J M —

Dearest Alice;

It is almost a week since I left you all, and how I hated to go, but you understood the reason why I felt it imperative. You were such a comfort to me, dear sister, and I want you to know how much I appreciated it. It is such a comfort to know that you are there helping the family, for they do depend on you so much. I have been wearing the beautiful earrings you gave me to the opera, and everyone asks me where I got them. Wasn't it fun on Xmas eve when we opened the presents, and had such a laugh over mother's 'dainty beauty dispenser'? Those gadgets tickle me so!

I spent a very lonesome night at

the Curtis, and at 8AM left for Chicago on the
 Zephyr. I forgot to mention that when I got in to Mpls.
 Red cap no. 17, who helped me the night I arrived with
 Ali Baba, asked how the family liked the cat. I told him
 we were about to give it up. He said he "sure would like
 it for his sons", but mother had sent it before I could
 contact her. That layman has a perfect genius for mis-
 understanding things, and now Mrs. Schuyler is mad
 at me, and no longer wants me for a friend - so I guess
 it's good riddance as far as the Schuylers are concerned!
 Oh dear! The things I get blamed for!

The train was on time when I reached Chicago, so
 after an immediate transfer over to the La Salle Str. Station,
 I had ample time to make connections, & had a comfortable
 No. 6 instead of the cramped quarters of a lower berth.
 Sometime in the wee small hours of the AM - the train stopped
 at Syracuse, N. Y. and remained there for six hours. All of
 us were not a little puzzled at the length of the stop, but
 the conductor, in passing through, showed us these Head-
 lines on the Syracuse paper, "New York City Arrived

Dec. 31, 1947

— L J M —

Mother darling; and Daddy precious;

Today is New Years eve, and it will be a lonely one - not being home to help you and daddy celebrate. At this time, I always think of my life in retrospect. As I look back on the passing years, I realize that one cannot always plan one's life as one would like. Too many conflicting circumstances present us, and many times because we fail to analyze them properly, we become frustrated and therefore hard to understand -

You and daddy, I know, have often despaired because you had these problems of understanding. And feeling of despair is a horrible feeling as well I know for I have so often had it. For instance if my life were what I would wish, I would have been a great singer or pianist, or writer - earning my own living and making you proud of me.

I would have been a source of confidence & trust - someone who could proudly say to the world, "Look what I have accomplished" - or not achieving would have, I could be married with a husband & budding family to surround you; but alas! I have none of these! I am still a music student struggling in a field that does not, as they say, promise rich returns - my only saving grace being, a passionate & reverential love for music, and the better things of life; and in addition, a great love for humanity in general - These are not practical attributes I fear, for I never heard of people making a living in this fashion, and in a sense, I am lonely with a type of loneliness hard to describe or fathom. I heard you once say, that love was measured by the amount of unselfish giving of money & resources - That is true up to a point, but what is the giving without the heart or soul behind it? That factor was what so distressed me when I was home for Xmas - I realized that you and daddy were tired from pre-Xmas activity, but so was I; and if you could have seen that in

— L J M —

me. plus my great happiness in being able to be home, my concern over fixing the stockings not only for the family, but for the King as well, and my great need for interest, understanding, and warmth, it would have made me feel wanted, and a vital part of the family, but that wasn't what I found, so I left Xmas night with a bitterly aching heart. I am so terribly sorry about the cat, but I couldn't do anything else but what I did. Now, because my instructions weren't followed, I have lost Mrs. Schuyler for a friend, for she blames me, not you, for the mess. Even though I looked after the cat to the best of my ability. That is the way it has always been for me - trying to do & wanting to do all in my power to make my fellow-men happy, and getting blows, & rebuffs in return - I ask you, are people so strange to a kind act & a loving heart

that they mistrust them & their motives?

And now, dearest mother and daddy,
have I not tried to be a good & loving daughter to you?
It is true, I have blundered many times, but don't forget
that I am handicapped, and cannot always respond the
way I am expected to. Forgive me, if in my affliction,
I have become at times difficult, I don't mean to be, for
I love you & daddy so very dearly that it's agony to
be away from you, but I make this sacrifice (even
though it costs you money) so that you two can be
happy.

Your loving & devoted daughter -
Laida Jane.



Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

From The Hotel Baltimore # 743
New York City



GRAND CENTRAL
STATION

July 27, 1948 1-

Daddy + Alice

Dearest darling precious mother; (EEK!!!)

How wonderful to have that nice visit with all the members of my family - Sun. evening - but oh, my darling, it seems as if I can never hear enough of your dear voice. If only you knew how much it meant for a lonely little person to speak with her family "what loves her" - you & daddy are constantly in my thoughts. And in a little over a month I'll be home, home, home, and won't I be happy? Of course, living in Mme. G's apartment is wonderful - but this heat has been unusually trying - the humidity for the most part has been 97% so I'm dripping most of the time, and haven't much energy I

Last Sun. night (a week ago) Tippy came¹ home, so phoned her Mon. evening. She sounded very jovial, as if the trip had done her a world of good. Thurs. noon, she took me to lunch, and then visited with me for two hours at my place. She is the dearest person that ever was, and she always asks about you & Alice. She thinks you're the most beautiful woman she's ever met. She told me to tell you how sorry she was she's taken so long to answer your letter, and please not to give her up - for you'll hear from her one day soon! She's had a rather hard life, because she's so generous & loving, and people have let her down so many times by taking advantage of her. She also told me in confidence that she, as a young girl, was so self-conscious because she was so homely, and she had quite a time learning to develop strength of character, so when people said mean things to her, she could rise above any resentful feeling - It was doubly hard

to learn, because she lost her parents when she was eight - You know "old maid" Aunt brought her up. Until she went to high school then she earned her way after that - putting both herself and her brother through High School & college. When she became connected with various opera companies, she managed everything herself - never having a central manager - so that is why she seldom hears of her in music circles. Her voice though, even Johnson, manager of the "Met" admits it is the most beautiful soprano there in the Co. - but she has only secondary roles, because as Mrs. Crothers puts it she is too old & fat to do the leading soprano roles - All her O. work, with few exceptions, she's playing with her in opera, because she is such a consummate performer & a wonderful actress - she loves people and wants to be loved more than anything else - she's the most lovely type you know - and is always trying to help some young singer get a start at the "Met" - but these young people are so selfish that when they reach the top they slide her aside. She told me that last winter, she took Patti's (Miss De Paul)

4-

apartment to allow Patty to take a trip to Florida -
Tippy had several of her most cherished things with her -
and even some of her furniture etc. Because Patty's things
were in a terrible state, and she had left her apt. in a
frightfully filthy condition. "It was like living in a pig sty,"
said T. Just before Xmas, the building caught fire and
was completely destroyed. Tippy was away at the time, and
when she returned, all her things had gone up in smoke - a
total loss - Patty was heavily insured, yet, when she returned
she never offered Tippy a cent! Patty, as you know, happens to
be a friend of Mrs. Williams. Mrs. Williams, you know, is
quite elderly, and loves it when young people make up to her -
She is warm, gracious & friendly, but inclined to be taken in
by flattery, and fussing over her - From time to time I have
met her so-called friends; and with the exception of Tippy,
Helen, & myself, they are quite insincere, and materialistically
minded - Mrs. W. is a little that way herself - not in money,
but position means a lot to her - all the same you see,

5-
She's a widow - has been for 10 years, and
all alone - with no family to care whether she
lives or dies - It's pathetic really - All she can
count on are her friends - so I mean to be a
friend to her as much as I possibly can -
not force myself on her - but be ready when she
needs me! I'm not so smart & sophisticated
as a New Yorker - I don't earn my living, and
I feel I should some how - when I see all
these poor work-worn people whose very
survival is the big thing at hand - and their
souls are wringed with lack of love, kindness, & care -
Oh my mother, a big city is so sad sometimes.
If money could bring them something better,
finer & nobler, I want to give all of mine to them.
That sounds kind of ridiculous, but those poor
souls need help so badly! I wish I could know
what to do to help make their lives easier -

6-
Imagine having all your faith destroyed! So when I'm with Jane Williams, I try to do & say little thoughtful things to her, and try not to feel badly when she doesn't respond as lovingly. I know her soul appreciates what I'm trying to do, and really that's all that counts, isn't it? I try to like her "friends" for her sake, because they have souls, too, and it is enough for me that she sees something good in them. I don't, to be sure like to see people "taken in", but I can't help that and the next best thing I can do is to be honest, sweet, & loving in the very best way I know how - even tho' it may sound maudlin to "sophisticated New Yorkers" - not talk about my troubles, and be thankful with all my heart for what goodness may come my way - My lesson is truly self-discipline, & maintaining a kind & loving heart! You know there's a lot to be said for the principle of Christian Science - constructive thinking. I am trying to learn to say with love in my heart about people who have done me an injury, "Well, God bless them any way". Jane taught me to read that!

Setting back to Tipsey's visit - she went on to tell me that she had taught her a lesson - not to worship idols - (or love material things too much). As for Gatty, she was not to be around when Jane was here, strong, but if she did see her, she always pleasant. Well, I told Tipsey what a wonderful friend she, Tipsey, had been to me, and how much I thought of her & loved her, and what a beautiful voice I thought she had. She, in turn, told me that I am like a daughter to her, and more than anything else, she wants me to be happy and enjoy life's blessings in every way I can - she tells me, like Mrs. Higgins, what's becoming to me, & what isn't. She kind my hair for me, but says she likes it best with a ribbon tying it back - told her how much I appreciated her interest, because with she & Anne & I have been in the city, and they know those things better than the layman - I played my kump for her, and she liked them, and told me to go on Wednesday or come more, and try all writing copies to. When she left -

9 Sunday, I went to Church for the first time in 6 weeks and we sang two anthems: "Let Not your Heart be Troubled" by Kessler, & a Handel Aria - They were beautiful beyond words and made me weep - In that kind of thing, his voice is wonderfully warm & rich in quality - almost as compelling as Marian Anderson's - When I saw her to say "good-bye," and how my heart ached! Well, I left, and in the evening helped at Christian Endeavor - As you know, I entertained some of the members afterwards at the apt. I had iced tea with orange & cookies for them - Then the wonderful visit with you all. It was so much fun talking to Sally & Mary -

Monday (yesterday) I went to see Mr. Duketoff who had just gotten back from Paris - He is going to be conductor of the Fort Wayne Symphony in Fort Wayne, Indiana next winter. I am going to take a few lessons from him as they help my composition. He told me he thought my difficulty was lack of pianistic technique in writing - I think a few lessons with him ought to help me tremendously - Gene Brigham had



asked me to take dinner with her, but my lesson appointment made me late. A Lions Club parade didn't help matters either as ~~that~~ held up traffic terribly. There were several floats & scores of people in it. June didn't have much time with me, having to leave before the meal was finished. When I got back to the apt. Mrs. Williams phoned saying I was to come over there for the evening - instead of her coming to see me as was originally planned. So I left. I was afraid I was a little late, but when she opened her door the place was dark, and she said the other girl hadn't come yet, so I welcomed a chance for a little visit with her alone. Well, I came into her living room, and there, sitting in the gloom in a rocking chair, with a big joyful smile on her round face, ~~she~~ was Tippy. I nearly fell over - I was so surprised & startled. For several seconds, I stared at her in silence.

My amazement must have been ludicrous for she laughed heartily! "Well," said as soon as I caught my breath, "From now on I'll believe in fairies, Santa Clause, and everything -" Then turning to Jane & Tippy I gave them each a big hug! She told me then that she hadn't been at all enthusiastic about leaving, and had talked Mr. Groth into staying another week or longer, and that she'd come down to see me again - She couldn't stay that evening very long, but had wanted to give me a surprise, and had worked it out with Jane. Well, I think, my reaction must have been most gratifying to both of them - even tho' Jane kept asking me if I knew who it was! Pearl Ponti, the nurse, was Jane's other friend who came that evening, and she's rather conceited - but very smart & a little hard & common - Still she has her good points, and I walked home with her - She lives on 55th Street off of 5th Avenue - The neighborhood she lives in is full of dissolute characters

And there have been two murders committed in the apt. next door - Pearl lives all alone with her two dogs - One of them has a kidney disease and has to urinate all the time, so the whole place smells horribly! She had just gotten back from Reading, Penna. where her father lives, and so was not entirely unexpected. She was married once & divorced in 6 mos. Her life must be very lonely! But she seems had all day - Her apt. looks a mess, for she can't cook meat, but I felt sorry for her, and who's a good girl in many ways - I spoke, and walked home alone - Almost at once a man (Edward Buckingham - the man who showed me to my new door, but didn't attempt to come in - when I told Jane about it this morning, she scolded me awfully, and said men to do such a thing again. Well, I won't, now - that I know, but I don't know at the time; but one thing I did learn was that people won't bother you if you mind your own business.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE HOTEL.

Tippy, when she came last night, brought back "Of Lena Eyre" that I lent her, & gave me her picture - something I had wanted for a long time - So I called her this morning and thanked her many times for it, & said that she had given me such a grand Christmas surprise -

This is a long letter, and I hope I haven't bored you - A lot of it - when I discussed character, was in answer to your statement about Roger & the way he feels - Even a Metropolitan Opera star has her troubles in the way of finding adequate friends - We all do, if we're the right sort spiritually - Roger's difficulty (he may have overcome it by now) is idolizing money & material things. As a child his mother indulged him in a way that made him too conscious of the power of money - She also stressed social position as being important from a material stand point, and belittled those who went as good as she was. Now both Mrs. King & Roger hope are learning that good breeding, a gracious bearing toward all no matter who, and kind & loving & sincere acts are

13 -
the only things that make for true friends -
Married life has been a wonderful aid in developing
both Roger & Mary - making them more loving,
tolerant & appreciative of little things. I have never
disliked Roger, but naturally, I was younger, too,
and often took the things he said to me too seriously,
when a wise, kind word from me might have
been more to the point - Asking how much your
own family is worth - especially after they have done
so many thoughtful things for me - is still to me
wicked & downright bad taste - tho' I think if he were
to say it to me now - I would answer him quite
diffidently; however, I am glad to see that
Roger is maturing, and hope that in time
we may enjoy each others' company very much!
The Crowthurs have left for Atlantic
city, and their friend Miss Oliver, is coming in town
next week, and wants to see me - This is a dear

person, and I like her very much, and hope to see more¹⁴
of her as time goes on -

Well, darling, I want little letters -

My best, deepest love to you always -

Laura Jane -

P. S. This is a family letter, & is to all of you -

So many thanks due ones, for your three wonderful
letters -



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

From 310 Riverside Dr. #1014
New York city, N - y -

"Surely had a good time while we were together! Every time I go to the opera I think of George & get the giggles! He's such fun! The Richters (Mrs. Gianina and her husband) think both George & Esther wonderful! 'Madame Votzka was so sorry they couldn't have been with us.' I told her she'd probably see them when she came to Mpls. She's such a dear, lovable, motherly soul - very fat & quite homely with big bones & very Slavic looking. But such a warm, unselfish personality that one can't help but like her. She's a wonderful raconteur, and some of the anecdotes she tells are priceless! Her parents were

March 1, 1948 1-

Mother dearest;

What a dear letter you wrote me, and how I love to get letters from my little blooper. I didn't mean my last letter to you to sound as if I were scolding you - perhaps one of our difficulties in straightening things out is that you are very sensitive too, and think that I mean



³⁷Back. This nice enough to me when
you & dad are around, but horrid &
marty when she knows no one can
hear her. When I get back home, I am
returning the purse & the silver she
has given me for I can't accept gifts from
such a person! I am glad you & daddy
have never been talked to the way she's
talked to me! And, who knows, perhaps
your influence will make a decent,
lovable human being out of her. In a
way I feel sorry for her, for at heart, she
can't be a very happy person!

I adore George & Esther! We

something that I don't mean at all,
and would explain if you'd give me
half a chance, but you get so excited
about things that it's not easy to
talk things over with you, but outside
of that you are the dearest, sweetest,
precious darling that ever was!
Now, you know how I really feel
about you - As for Helen King, she's
just an incident in my life! She's
been (and said such hateful things to
me) so mean, that I don't think we
can ever be friends! I don't trust
people who do things behind one's

⁸Costume, but it scared the children so -
Some of whom were taking part in the
opera as angels - that it nearly disrupted
the performance. Even in the more
benign appearance, the children still are
scared of her - for none will come near
her dressing room before or after the
performance, as they do the other stars!
She still hasn't had time to hear the
recording of H. & G. and told her hers was
the best voice on it, which explains why
I was so eager to meet her! After the show
I brought them back to the Dorset for some
ice cream - then up to my room where
I gave her a couple of books to take on

⁻⁵⁻
Czech, and came to America shortly
after they were married! They settled in
Cleveland, Ohio, where she was born.
When she was eight, they died and she
was adopted by four maiden aunts, her
mother's sisters who looked after her, as
she put it, in "four different ways." Each
one wanted her to be a "different
professional." She, herself, wanted
to be a nurse. She, like
Miss Anderson, had always
sung in church choirs, and
it was in this fashion that
her voice was discovered.
Wealthy, musical



That of the "witch" being among her best characterizations?

Last Wednesday, I took her & her husband Mr. Groth, to see "Finiani's Rainbow." Having her role as the "witch" in mind, I thought she might enjoy a fanciful show of this kind, and she did indeed! The Leprechaun, and the scene where the young girl works an enchantment on the Hon. the Senator, turning him black, tickled her pink (ha! ha!). As the witch, I told her she looked more like Mother Goose than an evil old hag, and she said that one season, she did wear the hideous mask that goes with the

pations sent her to Europe for voice study in Berlin. After her return to America she sang with several opera companies until 1935 when she made her debut as "Gloria Benoit" in "La Traviata" at the Metropolitan, and in whose co. she has been ever since. She has appeared on its august platform more times than any opera singer in the history of the "Met," and has sung more roles than any opera singer. She has sung with all the leading opera singers, and is one of the most beloved (quoting Madame Finiani) personalities there. She has taken over some of the late Schumann Heink roles

- Laura Jane -

her tour. She leaves March 15⁻⁹⁻
Including the show, she & her husband
had taken me to dinner, which I
thought very kind of her. Incidentally,

I showed her your picture ^{about}
which she said, "your mother
is one of the most beautiful
women I've ever seen."

She's so anxious to meet
you & dad, and I hope you'll
like her. She dresses very
simply, and is completely
as far as I know unaffected.
She said she'd sing for the
family if we wanted her to,



"Quality. Her high tones are luscious!
Oh yes, we could ask the Van Kyles too!
She's a Congregationalist, you know!
She knows Mr. Junning, the organist,
at the Plymouth Congregational Church in
Minneapolis, and the Brentises in Cleveland.

I gave you this little biographical
sketch about her, so you'd know what to
expect! I hope it won't be too much
for you!

Wish I could go with you to
Kansas City. Be sure and give Aunt
Laura my love -
With loads to you & the family

But won't for outsiders, so let's not¹⁰
plan a reception like we did for Miss
Anderson, if we have people like Grace W.
Adeline Lotts, Bert Hartmann, & Regina, will
ring for a small group! I thought Sen
Smoot could play her accompaniments.
Now I hope she'll sing "Songs My Mother
Taught Me." It's just beautiful the way
she does it! I'll be staying at the
Leamington while in Minneapolis, so
maybe Jessie & Nan will see her.

Last Sunday, she sang a solo
at church that was beautiful! Her voice
is clear & full with a warm appealing

June 25, 1948



Daddy, you darling;

How dearly I love my "daddy" boy, and how I miss him & mother! I think of you both so constantly, wondering how you are, and if everything is going smoothly at home.

I am at last located in Mme. Giannigis' apartment - and I certainly am living in the lap of luxury compared to the other place. - It was dear of Aunt Brown to let me have her place when I was so badly in need of a place to stay, and in many ways, she has been a good friend to me, but toward the last, I found that she was taking advantage of my ignorance, and over charging me, so I was very glad when Mme. G. offered me her place. That's the trouble with the Negro Race today. They want Racial equality, but they want it at the expense of those who are

working for that very thing? Well, perhaps it is the
fault of the times - selfishness, exploitation, materialism
and lack of spirituality - seem to be the characteristics
of this century - But getting back to Madame Giannini -
how I wish you & mother knew her, daddy - She is one
of the loveliest friends I have ever had! This the true
conception of a great artist - for with her art, she has
developed a great personality of which understanding
and simplicity are the key notes - It is such a
relief to have some one in this big city to go to
when I need advice. I rarely take my problems to any
one, but once in a while we all need a friendly, help-
ful word - Mrs. Lederer - a one time St. Paul woman -
is her secretary - Her husband died some ten years
ago. He was a very prominent business man -
and very likely you have heard of him - They ~~are~~ ^{were} well
acquainted with Little Falls - and knew a Mr. Carlson
who at one time ran the Victor Clothing store -
Mrs. Lederer has been wonderful to me while I've
been here, and has done many thoughtful things to
help make my stay pleasant -

Madame Votipka has been another



good friend to me - She put me in contact with a lovely friend of hers - a Mrs. Jane Williams - Mrs. Williams is a fine singer also - though not connected with the opera. The other evening I played bridge at her apartment. The other two of the foursome were an elderly Englishman named Mr. Gerson, and a woman written around my age named Miss DePauls - both very delightful - Mr. Gerson and Curie partners, and were the lovers - but we didn't care - Mrs. Williams has a fine sense of humor, and I love to talk with her - Miss DePauls is coming over for a little this afternoon - She does personality sketches for various magazines -

These past three days have been very warm and damp - a little too much to take easily - I was so busy getting moved that it

tired me very considerably⁴⁻ - On top of it all, I went to
Wellesley for the week-end, and Margaret urged
a three mile walk and a canoeing expedition on me.
Bless her heart - she doesn't realize that her guests
may not be up to that sort of program, and would
much prefer a quiet visit - so needless to say, I
have been doing a good deal of resting - now that I
am moved - Thank goodness! Being in this apartment
is like living in a private home - It is a cool
place, too, and on hot days I just lie on the sofa
with an electric fan going.

I wanted to apologize for calling
you while I was in such a low frame of mind,
but I felt so down I just had to talk to you & mother
and pour out my heart - but right afterwards I realized
how selfish it was of me to get you all upset -
about my being here alone - And living in this lovely
place should make me the happiest person alive.
And I am wicked to let my feelings get the best of me,
so please forgive your funny letter. In the future
when my feelings get the best of me, I'll try to con-
trol them. I had rather hoped Alice could come on;



But I realize it would be quite an expense, and with Aunt Ida being in such a condition, and with your summer company coming, her place should be with you! Now don't worry about me one bit - for in this pleasant place time will go very quickly, and I'll be home again before I know it!

I received both the card & check for Philippa's birthday (Aug. 2nd), and will try to get her a nice present - But Daddy - I'm afraid that you are spending entirely too much money on her - \$5.00 would have been more than sufficient - After all, Philippa is only writing to you and sending you things because her mother tells her to. You see, she (Mrs. Schuyler) knows you're rich, and wants to have Philippa get as much money from you as possible - Philippa is a sweet child, but she is too much afraid of her mother - not to do her bidding - Mrs. Schuyler is an

opportunistic, and she realized she made a mistake
when she talked & wrote to mother & me in the way
she did. - Then in order to have you interested in
Philippa, she had the child "soft-soap" you -
knowing you would be an easy prey for that sort of
thing! The Schuylers (Mrs. & Philippa) are well known
in music circles. Mr. Giannini tells me, and are
very much disliked because Mrs. Schuyler stoops to
such low vulgar tricks! If they thought mother & I
were rich on our own account, they would "soft-soap"
us too! Now, I want this "low" despicable trick of
Mrs. Schuyler's to be "nipped in the bud," but in
doing so, I don't want to hurt Philippa - With your
intelligence I won't have to - so why not let me send you
back \$20 & use the \$5⁰⁰ to get Philippa a fine book on
music - I am sure mother would agree to this.
By the way, some time, you might just mention to
Philippa when you write to her - that it wasn't my
fault, or mother's - that we couldn't keep the cat - and
that you don't think it fair of her to bear this attitude
when I told her mother that I would take the cat on
trial" as Mrs. Schuyler wanted me to - we just don't
have the help to look after it, even tho' we thought



it dear of them to send it! Also, that both mother
 & I thought it better to ship the cat by American
 express, as they take such good care of animals - better
 than I could do with all the 9 pieces of luggage I had
 to take back with me, and that I just couldn't keep it
 at the Biltmore even tho' I were to take it back -
 Also - that Philippa has meant a great deal to me -
 I have loved her when I first saw her as a little girl
 of seven, and have tried in many ways to show her
 my love & friendship for her - Then you might add
 that you (if it's true) feel badly to have us separated
 because of this misunderstanding, and would suggest
 that she write me a little note to please you & make you
 happy - otherwise, it would make you feel Philippa herself
 weren't sincere in her friendship for you - since she has
 been unwilling to try to forgive & forget, & be big enough
 to realize that we did the best we could - (I would

write this to Philippa herself - only her mother has been
torn up all my letters (her father told me she did). If
Philippa, in her reply to this to you, still refuses to be
big about it - then you can realize, daddy, that
spiritually, she isn't the right kind to have for a friend.
If you still feel you want to continue giving her
expensive gifts - then I will send back your check &
card for you to buy & send the gift from Little Falls -
After all, it's your money, and you should be your own
best judge. But I've told you how I feel about it, and
have offered what might be a solution - So, all I can say is,
do as you think best!

Your truly loving & most devoted daughter,
Laura Jane -

ask mother what she thinks!



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

From The Hotel Dorset # 208
New York City, N. Y.

Feb. 19, 1948 she said to me last night that people who are young and friendly in spirit are often the most easily hurt! She, herself, is that way!

Dearest mother;

How happy I was to talk to you this morning. I get so lonesome for you & daddy that I feel like bursting every now & then. It's so hard for me to believe in myself any more. I've tried all my life to be so kind and loving to people, and to be a fine daughter to you & daddy, but all I get are heart aches, and more heart aches, till I think I'll go mad! Mme. Notepka hit the nail on the head when she said to me last night that people who are young and friendly in spirit are often the most easily hurt! She, herself, is that way! I imagine life in an opera co. is not easy! She is such a kind & loving person that one feels that she understands. Her husband is so nice too! Told her all about you, your life in Berlin etc. This I am anxious to meet you, and if I shouldn't be there, I'll try to get you up anyway. Told her with just love to have her visit us over



night, and she said shed love to,
no if you've gotten tickets, I can
give them to friends, in case she could
visit us. This is the first opera -
the night of May 6 - The Rose
Kavalier which is my favorite.
This is followed by Don Giovanni
May 7 - Il Trovatore; May 8 (Sat) &
Tosca - May 8 (Sun.). I'd just as soon
Miss Don Giovanni, & Mme. Volpka
could stay with us the night of May
17th, and that would give us a
nice visit. What do you think of
that?

© SUNSHINE NOTES:
S.A. Studios
E-65



I want to see The Rose Cavalier - so please order 6 tickets to it! & two to the others - You see how I sell you to all my friends, so that they love you before they meet you! Why can't you speak as nicely of me to your friends as I do to mine - Then, your friends wouldn't turn me down the way George & Esther did, or speak insultingly to me the way Helen King did! You can see that my love for you is such that I can give you my friends, and step out of the spotlight. If you wanted your friends to like me as much as I want mine to like you, you'd go out of your way for me too!

Next week I am taking Madame Votipka to see "Finian's Rainbow". She likes musical comedies a lot!

With much love,
- Laura Jane -

another cartoon for your collection!

tell me how you like it -

I wrote Helen King a letter about the gift situation. In it I tried to be as nice as possible in explaining why I felt the way I did. She may show you the letter, and if she does, please see my side of it, darling!

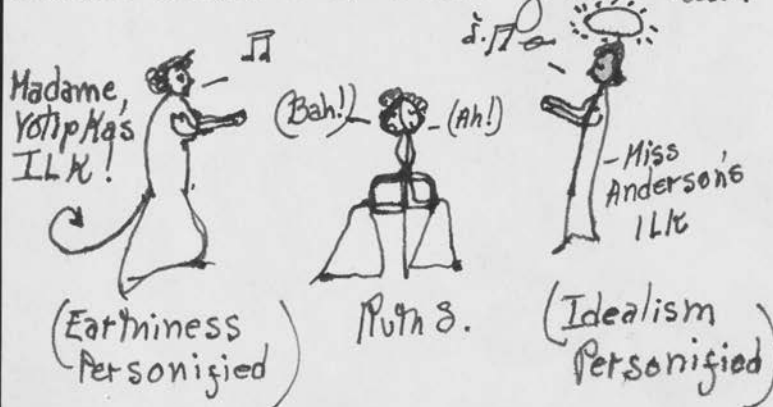
I know I should be forgiving, but she has so obviously shown me how she feels about me, that gift giving under false pretences, makes me ill! I want to like Helen, but she won't make me like her by giving me things - feeling the way she does! If she wants to be friends with me

she should either apologize May 27 1948
or show me in loving thoughtful actions in person (saying thoughtful & kind things, & that she means what she says) - you would & bring daughter
dearest mother - my precious little "blooper";



I am sorry you heard me crying this morning, but I am just getting over my cold, and the after-effects always depress me. You know darling, how much I have to be thankful for - yours & daddy's wonderful love, & ever ready thoughtfulness

was Miss Anderson. Tippy she thought which mean so much to me!
 was the "ordinary run of the mill"! Ruth is such an "idealist," that
 in the artistic field an artist must
 be a little above the common herd - both
 in profession & personality - As the
 result would be something like this:



Ruth's Idea of Artists

My lovely home, and all those friends
 that the Lord has seen fit to bestow
 on me! But human nature is a
 tricky thing, and I get so confused
 at times that I get down - then I
 remember the constancy of yours & daddy's
 love, and my spirit becomes strong
 within me, and ready to carry on!

Ruth & I had a wonderful week-
 end together, and we went to church on
 Sunday, and I introduced her to Tippy -
 Much to my surprise, Ruth didn't much
 take to her, and told me afterwards that
 the truly great artist friend of mine

*Closed Special Delivery
7:00 AM*



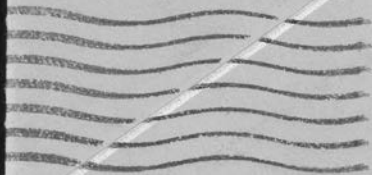
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of First Addressee



Mrs. R. D. Musser
Go Mrs. Richard E. Kuig
Go Harold's
Nicoll Avenue
Minneapolis
Minnesota



From The Barbrin Plays -
101 West 58th Street
New York City
2838



Chicago, Nov. 28, and I asked why? I didn't
think I was. He said she was singing
there, (and I felt like saying "So what?")
Well, he wondered if I could make it!
It seems Barbara (you remember her) had
asked me to stop in Chicago on my
way back Nov. 29. and I told him that.
He said "Why can't you make it the 28th?
I want to see you about the L. F. possibility.
I told him I couldn't throw up my school
work just for that! He seemed terribly
disappointed, and kept insisting he wanted to
see me, and gave me the name of the hotel
where they were staying in Chicago. It all
sounded a little odd to say the least, but
not long after this talk, I received a ticket
from The Chicago Civic Opera House for that
concert, but no letter from Barbara. I assume
she sent me the ticket, but if I don't hear
from her soon to confirm the time when she
wants me, I'm going to leave. Nov. 30 - getting

Nov. 12, 1943

LAURA JANE MUGGER

Mollie Darling;

Thank you so much for your
letter. I called up Doubleday Doran,
and had them send the book out
C. O. D. so you ought to have it
by now. Preparations for Holland
I think it will give you the material
you want. I have been reading a
most interesting book Soap Behind
the Ears by Cornelia Otis Skinner -
It's delightful, and I had many
heartily chuckles over its humor. I
think the book Indigo is a Literary
Guild number. They have unusually
good books I think. When you finish

Betty left Susan at home when she came to the wedding, and didn't seem particularly interested to want to see me again, so as far as the Brigham tribe is concerned, I've washed my hands of it. I doubt if you'll ever hear about the wedding gifts. It's really too bad they are so thoughtless. That, I guess, is what society does to one.

When I phoned Mr. Rupp, he wanted to know Aunt Maude's address and hoped that I would be in Minneapolis to escort him to Aunt M's. He said he thought they would be in Minneapolis Dec. first or second. I asked him about the possibility of their coming to L. 7. He very much doubted it unless they could come directly to L. 7. from Chicago. He then wanted to know if I were going to be in

it, will you please put it in my room so that I may read it when I return?

Adelaide Martin's address is 50 The Methodist Girls High School Kolar Town - Mysore State - S. India. Wouldn't she love a surprise box? Bless her heart! Poor child! There can't be much happiness for her - why can't the British & Japs leave India alone. Wouldn't it be nice if she could come to live with us after the war while the reconstruction period is going on?

Life hasn't been so much fun since I hurt my foot. It has forced me to be extremely lazy and unambitious.

Uncle Pliny has gone away for a few weeks, and I don't know if June & Billy are at the apartment or not.

LAURA JANE MUSSEY

to Minneapolis Dec. 2nd ticket or no
ticket - Of course, if Barbara does
want me for the 28th, it would be
fun to visit her. Mr. Rupp also
said if he could see me before
the concert, he wanted to see me
afterwards. I said I probably wouldn't
be allowed backstage, and he said he'd
arrange for me to get there all right.
I think he's a little "tetched" in the head.
I also think he's terribly anxious to visit us.
On top of all this I had a letter from
Aunt Maude. She's as excited about
the visit as Mr. Rupp is, and is
anxious to have a luncheon party for him,
Miss A., Mitropoulos, and me! I imagine
you too, if you'd happen to be there.

My theory work may necessitate my stopping piano lessons. It keeps me so busy. Mr. Newstead does not help me in the least, and I shall probably have to give up the piano idea entirely. Jody thought it would be nice. If I could take from Philippe's teacher, Miss Lucile.

Marion Nellermoe called me while she was here. I'm sending a check to Anderson's China Shoppe for Daddy's birthday present.

I shall enclose the check with this letter.

Please write to me very soon. Did I forget the blumps & blops. Well here they are as big as life - one million pieces of BLUMPS & BLOPS to my precious little darling -
Laura Jane.

P. S. Marion has the gift all picked out!

By the way, the tickets that I ordered for the Minneapolis concert will probably be sent to my Little Falls address. If you're coming to the concert you can bring them with you. If you're not coming to the concert you can write Mr. Gaines and tell him to hold them for me at the box office. Perhaps that would be better anyway so that I can be sure they won't be lost. The tickets will be mailed to me a week before the concert, so perhaps you'd better write right away. I would certainly appreciate this.

I did write letters to Sally, Aunt Laura & Cousin Bud! I shall see the latter very likely around the 22nd of Nov. I had a letter from Margaret Naylor asking me to spend the week-end of the 19th with her.

June 27, 1948
"



My darling precious little "Eeku" mama,

What a dear letter you wrote me yesterday, and how sorry I was to upset you with my phone call - I was feeling so lonesome that day, that I probably sounded worse off than I really was - That is why I called again - for of course, I don't need Alice! I am getting along just fine, and am living like a Princess in this lovely apartment - The weather has been terribly warm & muggy; and I cannot stand the heat & humidity very well - Also the strain of moving plus my surroundings and the fatigue from my rather strenuous week-end with Margaret did their bit to make me low spirited - But when I think of all you've going through with the Reception, & summer company, I feel ashamed of myself & am long to be home helping you - That dear kind

little heart of yours that does so much and receives
so little appreciation, should not be permitted to get over-
tired, and if the strain is proving too much, I shall
tell Mrs. G. that I simply can't stick it out, dearly as
I love her & want to help her, for your health & well-being
mean more to me than any old music course - You &
Daddy are all I have, and I shall not let Mary, Alice,
Mrs. King, or any one else take you from me -
For if you & Daddy go - it's all up with me - I mean it!
So for the sake of happy years ahead for us three,
please don't over do - for these others cannot love you
the way I love you. If they did, they wouldn't impose
themselves the way they do! Everyone thinks of themselves
these days, and precious few are willing to make sacrifices
or do kind things for others until it is too late, and the
harm has been done by their thoughtless actions -
Please, if the company is too much for you, tell them - of course
in a nice way - but firmly - that you are tired & not up to
long periods of entertaining. If they are big souls, they
will understand I'm sure - One thing more - you
haven't got a selfish bone in your body - nor daddy either
You both are Saints - that's what you are! and don't



You let people get you down because of lack of appreciation. They're not worth bothering about - Now a day, it seems that the more you do for one, the more he expects - so go easy - Will you say! and let them make some effort themselves for a change - I think Betty will appreciate you more & more as she thinks about what you did for her, as will Jim. Those Southern gals are so spoiled as a rule they can't see straight - I hope Jim won't impose himself on daddy too much concerning a job. Under the G.I. Bill, he ought to receive some compensation!

Since Madame Votipka and Mr. Grotz are away, I haven't any desire to go to church! so am spending my Sunday Mornings sleeping - Mrs. Williams told me how much Helma appreciated your letter, so doubtless you will hear from her before too long - Did you ever receive the letter Madame G. wrote you? Miss Patty Derouls

Came to call the other day, and as it was very warm, I served ice tea - Gatty is older than I, but looks young, and was full of her subject on interviewing celebrities - which is what her writing concerns itself with - Well, I told her that I knew Lindbergh, Anna Morrow, Marian Anderson etc. personally, as well as several others, & she was visibly impressed - so we compared notes on the ones we both knew, & the afternoon went quickly! She was quite interesting, but a rather self centered young lady - as most New Yorkers are - She thought Madame Go apartment a little "too furnished" for her taste, but outside of that liked it very much! We both are fond of bridge, & swimming so hope to get together again before too long -

Did the duffle bag, Laundry box & 5 packages arrive yet?

Daddy sent ^{me for} Philippa a check for \$25 for a present. I told him I thought \$5⁰⁰ was more than sufficient with his permission I shall send back \$20⁰⁰ - & get Philippa a book on music - After the way the Schuylers have acted, and since Philippe should at last realize that what she's doing is wrong - I have no patience with people like that & think it time they realize what's what!

With so much love from your devoted Laura Jane -

with plenty of L.E.K.S. & B.L.O.P.S. & S.H.O.C.K.S!