



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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Jan. 8, 1948

Dearest Laura,

The high light of your last letter, dear, is the fact you will be out here for some part of summer. I'll try to arrange to have my vacation during that time (perhaps we can spend one week in Big Bear or Avalon) and I am looking forward to our visit. Of course will take my little "shadow" along with us, in fact he'll make good company.

I understand perfectly your situation at home and am confident that all of us can cope with it. You see, Laura, there are six of us young, plus our respective in-laws and their respective off springs.

My oldest brother's wife is simply intolerable at times; my mother will have nothing to do with her.

But I am so sorry to hear that your mother feels the way ~~you~~ ^{she} does; and you are her true flesh and blood. If I were anywhere near her, I certainly would make an effort to help your mother in understanding you better. Or is there anything I can do to help the situation along? Please let me know. I shall never forget the day your mother came over for dinner in my apt, and I was so impressed with her personality. I don't think I wasn't agreeable to her.

You say Mary is edging into your mother's interests. Perhaps

it is just as well - the outside interest does your mother good and gives her something to do and speak about. Alice and yourself are it too much at home, and I'm sure your mother is quite lonesome too.

And yet, Laura, dear, should you have a chance to marry, do so. No one is going to blame you for marrying - it is the most normal thing for one to do. I'm sure your mother would encourage it and should your family need you after you marry, your husband wouldn't deny you ~~the~~ going to them.

It was a shame the Schuyler friendship had to come to such an end. I do feel so sorry for all concerned.

How long do you plan to stay in N.Y.?

I had a wonderful time the past holidays - I was celebrating almost every other day! To top it off I was given a birthday the past Saturday with the orchestra playing happy birthday. A cake with one large pink candle was brought in. I received several gifts and we girls received corsages. It was just too much!

By the way dear please let me know the date of your birthday.

Bruce's birthday is around the corner and I'm just thinking what I'll do for his party.

How sweet of you to want to have Bruce and myself with you. However there are certain things we must consider before ~~we~~ I do live with you: will discuss it when we meet this summer.

I've bought a pattern and I'm going to buy some material and start sewing.

Do you remember Mr. Colge? Have you ever gone to see him? He is a grand person and so wealthy in spiritual food, so to speak.

Write me soon, dear.

Love ever,
Ester



743
Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Hotel Biltmore
New York City, N.Y.

Room # 743

Erster B. Yoon
680 3/2 Venice Blvd
Los Angeles

JAN 9 1 55 PM '48

MAIL CLERK

743
T



AIR MAIL



Miss Laura J. Musser
The Hotel Biltmore
New York City, N. Y.
Room # 743

Erika B. Gorn
803 1/2 Venice Blvd
Los Angeles
Calif.

MAIL CLEARED
JAN 9 11 15 AM '46

This letter is a
soul felt discourse
on friendships - and
I am all for it.

Here's a toast to
our friendships Laura -
but for always.

My answer to your
Jan. 5th letter follows.

Ever very love,

Edith

Jan. 7, 1948

Dearest Laura,

What a comfort
to know also that I
have such a wonderful
friend as yourself.
Laura dear. That one
idea (Bruce's guardian-
ship after my death),
had been uppermost
in my mind since
the day Bruce's
father and I decided
to go our separate ways.

There's no one I could think of who could give him that cultural background and understanding as yourself. You have no idea how much I do appreciate your acceptance dear - and I am sincerely thrilled and overjoyed and very relieved.

I am so sincerely moved to know and prove that I am your dearest friend and do

so want to continue as long as ever —

And truly, I am honestly convinced that material things in life, at times, are less significant than the spiritual.

But you know, dear, you can always come to me with your problems, trials and tribulations; I have unbounded fortitude and the willingness to help my fellow men.

Jan 18, 1948

Laura, my dearest and closest friend,

I hope my previous letter and the news contained therein didn't shock you.

But I would like your honest opinion, dear, or suggestions on this score.

I do love and think so very highly of Mr. Colze yet there are and will be problems involved in the future should we marry.

I'm giving up my job and taking Bruce with me to N.Y. He has a wonderful place to stay here and I am making a good salary.

Rightfully, Laura shouldn't be, Mr. Colze at least send me train fare and extra money for expenses?

Up until now, he has made no mention of sending me any money. So, I have made a loan which was granted me (thank goodness) and must borrow some more to see me at least to N.Y. if and when I go.

(Please keep these matters confidential, dear, should you one day meet Mr. Colge (Pepo))

He may not be able to support the three of us after we are married, in which case I must start working all over again. I have taken care of that situation though and have requested a transfer to our N.Y. office.

Another immediate

problem will be the housing situation.

Mr. Coze has made no arrangement for us to stay at friends or a hotel.

Do you think, dear, that Bruce and I should, in any case, go to N.Y. and then ~~see~~ these problems from that angle?

Should I not marry Mr. Coze after we get there, Laura, I'd like to discuss several things with you.

Write me by return letter, dear, as I requested a reservation by train to leave Los Angeles the 1st of Feb. A railroad strike is scheduled for the 6th.

I'm in the midst
 of packing besides
 working and taking
 care of household duties.
 My letter could be
 longer, but I'll have
 much more to say
 when I get to N.Y. - if
 and when I get there

Dearest Laura,
 please answer soon
 your frank and
 honest opinion.

Love always
 your friend,
 Esther

Escher B. Moore
803 1/2 Venice Blvd
Los Angeles, 5 Calif.



743
Miss Laura Jane Messer
The Hotel Baltimore
New York City, N.Y.

From 743



CLERK
07 PM '44

SPEEDED TO YOU
VIA AIR MAIL
REPLY BY AIR MAIL



743
Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Biltmore Hotel
New York City, N.Y.
Room 743

Eschew B. Yoon
P. 803 1/2 Venice Blvd
Los Angeles 15

MAIL CLERK

JUN 15 3 25 PM '48

and I'm hoping it
will be near a park
for Bruce's sake.

Ever my love,
your dear friend,
Escher

Jan. 14, 1948

My dearest and most
precious friend,

Laura, darling, I'm
just bursting but
with good news -
I'll be in N.Y. with
Bruce about the
14th of February!
I'm going to be
married to Dr. Colge -
the gentleman, whom
I just mentioned in
my last letter.

I'm excited and
chilled beyond words.

Oh, Laura, darling,
to think we will
meet again after
these years just
overwhelms me.

And dear, when
I get married I
would love you to
stand as my
bridesmaid, if we

get married in church
or be my witness
if we get married at
City Hall.

I'll be leaving
around the 27th
February and shall
phone you when I
arrive and am
settled.

Mr. Colge is looking
around for an apt



743
1C

Miss Laura Jane Musser
New York,
New York.

90 Biltmore Hotel.

Mrs. Frank H. Dewey
406 W. Broadway
Little Falls, Minn.

MAIL CLERK

JUN 2 11 36 AM '46

Little Falls, Minn.
Dec. 30. 1947.

Dear Laura Jane:-
It was
very sweet and
thoughtful of you
to send me the
lovely box of glazed
fruit for Christmas.
It is so nice and
fresh, you must know
our fondness for
sweets.

We were both
sorry your stay
here was so short,

very best love and we had hoped to
good wishes for have you over for
a Happy New Year an evening of bridge
and come back soon. And to see our tree.

Sincerely,

Alice J. Dewey.

Bert and I were
up to see Mrs. Roberts
yesterday. She is
cheerful and get-
ting along nicely.

I thank you very
much for remember-
ing us, it was
appreciated greatly
by both of us.

And now our



Miss Laura Jane Musser
310 Riverside Dr. #1014
New York City, N.Y.

X. S. Kollen
829 2nd Ave. S.
St. Cloud, Minn.

St. Cloud Minn.
March 31, 1948

Dear Laura Jane,

Thanks a lot for the lovely Easter card. I'm sorry I didn't do likewise.

Hope everything is O.K. with you and your career.

I had a lovely Easter holiday in Minneapolis.

I have another year of school. Then I can teach biology, botany, chemistry, physics, and general science. This quarter is a hectic routine of math and laboratory work from nine to five every ~~day~~ week-day but Friday.

I'll be mighty happy on graduation day because then I can start living on more than mere subsistence standards.

I just finished my studies
for the evening and must
retire as soon as Cedric
Adams finishes the news
summary.

Drop me a line
and tell me how your
work is progressing
and how you and the
family are enjoying the
arrival of another
spring.

Sincerely,

Kenny

Mrs. N. Woodworth
Little Falls
Minn.

VIA AIR MAIL



Miss. LAURA JANE MUSSER
310 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
MASTER APTS - 1014
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.



Wed. Mar 10 - 1948

Dear Laura Jane:

Your recent letter is, without exception the most interesting one I have ever received!! I thought the one you wrote Mother about Irene Rose's visit was the best one, but I found this one equally, if not more absorbing and I do hope you won't mind if I tell you I shared it with a few personal friends, as well as my nice new neighbor on the north, Mrs. Hyland.

I want you to meet her when you come home again, for I am sure you would find her extremely interesting, as I do - and she is more eager than ever to meet you after reading your letter too. Being an army wife, she has been all over the U. S. A. and she has a unique background - as well as foreground - for she is a convert to Catholic religion after being raised Lutheran. (I think she does her "duty" by her new faith with her tongue in her cheek, if you ask me) However she is not slow in defending it, if necessary and I think she has reached a most tolerant attitude to all religions for she is so emotionally well balanced -

2. Your interest in Opera has seemingly led you into a beautiful, wonderful new world, hasn't it? It has also provided you with many new and stimulating ~~new~~ friends and contacts with famous people.

I am a tremendous admirer of Rise Stevens and here is one program Sunday afternoon on which my husband and I agree is Tops. I should love to meet her and I am sure Madame Vitupka is as charming as you say she is. I can't wait until she comes and it will be a thrill for me to see and hear her sing in any Opera, with you. It is so good of you to want me to go with you and you know that I do appreciate your kindness always.

Mother is so much better and really trying to get well. She walks to the front door and back several times a day. Her appetite isn't too good but she eats anyway and sleeps like a baby. I only hope she continues to live

on as comfortably as she is now but, like the sword of Damocles we are always expecting another stroke to hit. Her dear friend Grandma Fortier is also struggling to live in spite of an advanced case of anaemia. I have not been at the hospital for two weeks so I do not have much to report. I saw Bert once a week for awhile and I thought she was one of the finest examples of a good hospital patient I ever saw. She was so thankful just to be alive — she never complained of one thing and I'm sure her recovery will be hastened by her cheerful cooperation with her doctor and those who care for her. With "Aunt Ida" it is quite different. She is older, and has a very serious break because she is so heavy and at times she is a very difficult patient. It was such a shame she had to venture out that day on the icy streets.

4. I agree ^{with} you on our crazy winter weather, and I am simply green with envy of the people who can go South to get away from the cold. We have not exactly been snow bound out here because, as you know, we are on one of the vital highways that is always kept open, but we have had to be shoveled, pushed and pulled in and out of our garage until we almost regret we didn't put the shed right smack up to the road!! We were able to get plenty of fuel oil, so at least we were warm in the house. This A.M. I got up at 7 o'clock and it was exactly 20° below zero - on Mar. 10 - Imagine!

Steve & Irene have been gone since Jan 25th and you should see their North drive - The snow must be 10 ft high along their hedge. They were in Cal. the last I heard and expect to be home soon. They visited Tom near Portland and saw their new grandson.

5 I had a letter from Margaret this week
Her baby had that Virus X and was very
ill and her husband had a bad throat.
He needs his tonsils out. They have a
new Ford but have not enjoyed it yet
because of being ill, but they will have
fun this summer. She wants me to
come East to visit but I cant leave my
Mother as she depends on me for so
much. I fix most of their food here
and my Father is so wonderful to do
the rest of the nursing. He helps her
with her bath and keeps her bed so
clean and waits on her hand & foot.
Mother says "I know I'm going to die,
and I'm not one bit afraid, but I would
like to have you and "Papa" here when I go."

So you see it ties me here but as
long as I keep well and happy here
I dont mind being here as long as
Dad is so badly needed. Neil isnt too
well and is a bad bachelor, so I need
to be here with him too. In another month

6 I will be able to be out of doors and in my garden and yard - How happy I shall be when that time comes.

I hope we have a better growing year for we do want to get grass started.

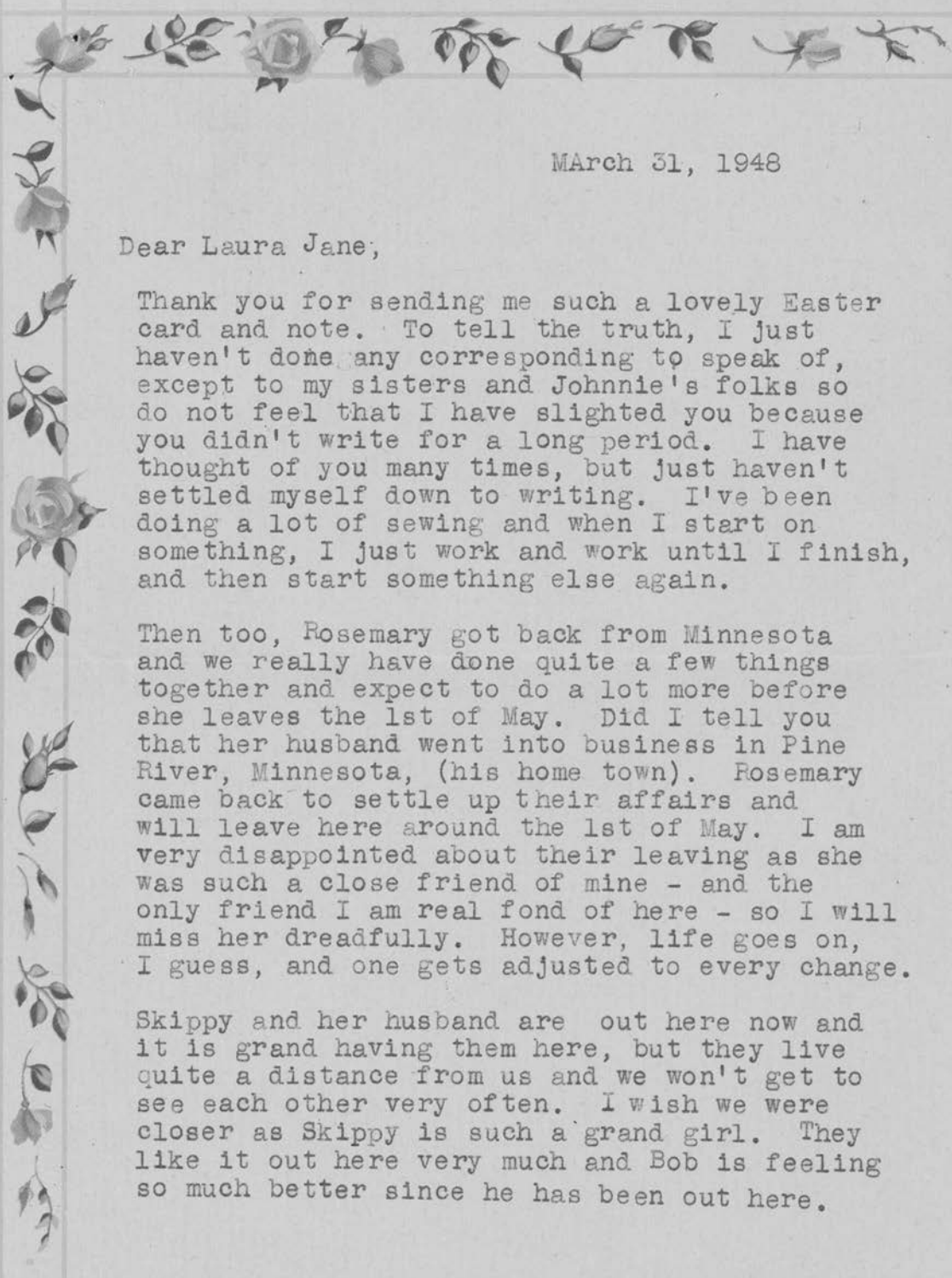
We have a lot of trees & shrubs ordered for spring planting. I'll be busy!

We are enjoying our radio phonograph so much. I bought a Strauss waltz album for Neil - He loves them -

I am sorry you had to leap from crag to crag like a mountain goat - I mean as to hotels - so I'm sure you are glad to be settled for at least a few weeks.

The cat episode was sad (and funny too if you can look back on it & laugh) Perhaps the friendship with Marian A. is affected by her husband who may have influenced her against you. He may be jealous and possessive of her, but we all know she is really a great artist.

Thank you again for your Super de Lux, Entrancing, Deeeedelightful letter and I'll be seeing you in "May - When the flowers bloom tra la la" - Love - Grace



March 31, 1948

Dear Laura Jane;

Thank you for sending me such a lovely Easter card and note. To tell the truth, I just haven't done any corresponding to speak of, except to my sisters and Johnnie's folks so do not feel that I have slighted you because you didn't write for a long period. I have thought of you many times, but just haven't settled myself down to writing. I've been doing a lot of sewing and when I start on something, I just work and work until I finish, and then start something else again.

Then too, Rosemary got back from Minnesota and we really have done quite a few things together and expect to do a lot more before she leaves the 1st of May. Did I tell you that her husband went into business in Pine River, Minnesota, (his home town). Rosemary came back to settle up their affairs and will leave here around the 1st of May. I am very disappointed about their leaving as she was such a close friend of mine - and the only friend I am real fond of here - so I will miss her dreadfully. However, life goes on, I guess, and one gets adjusted to every change.

Skippy and her husband are out here now and it is grand having them here, but they live quite a distance from us and we won't get to see each other very often. I wish we were closer as Skippy is such a grand girl. They like it out here very much and Bob is feeling so much better since he has been out here.

They bought a 3-bedroom house out in a new district, about 11 miles from us.

Rosemary and I spent 3 days with Vera and Harold Kidder--they live 85 miles from us, near L. A. Vera is so happy and Harold is just grand to her and Karen Sue and I'm so happy for Vera. We had a wonderful time when we visited them and saw lots of beautiful country. It is such a beautiful trip to L. A.--as you ride on the train you see the ocean one side and the mountains on the other.

Mary and her little boyfriend, David, (next door) have taken it upon themselves to go galivanting around the neighborhood now and for the last two days they have wandered away from home. I frantically searched the neighborhood yesterday and when I found them I asked Mary where she had been and she casually said, "around the block."

On Easter Sunday, Mary wore that darling pink dress you sent her some time ago--with the rose in the yoke of the dress, made especially for us. I took some pictures and will send you some when they are finished.

I'm hoping you are well and happy and write to me again when you can.

Love from

Irene + Mary

MRS. JOHN F. ROSE
3491 NO. MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Airmail



AIR MAIL

5¢

SAVE THE EASY WAY

BUY U.S. BONDS OR

PAYROLL SAVINGS

Miss Laura Jane Musser
310 Riverside Drive, #1014
New York City, N. Y.

Airmail

Dear Laura Jane -

Thank you so much - and Madame Votipka too - for the very useful catalogue which I had not known before.

I am still on a cloud having memories of the

beautiful performance of "Der Rosenkavalier"

School is out !!
That is a sentence,
a paragraph - a chapter
all alone.

Dick's last final is
Thursday this week so
John and I will pick
him up and bring him
home. He must leave
again June 20th - for

San Francisco - and his
cruise, We will miss
him but know he
will be having a
very interesting time.

I hope you are
well, happy and
not letting them pile
too much ironing on you
at that settlement house.
If Ruthie and I really do
get to New York - we will
help you
all. Thanks again for
all - Affectionately, Ruth H.



"Of all the garden flowers,
The fairest is the rose."
Moor



Miss Laura Jane Musser
310 Riverside Drive
New York City - N.Y.
Apt. 1041

Mrs. H. E. Hutterans
Little Falls
Main.

VIA AIR MAIL



Miss. Laura Jane Musser
310 Riverside Drive
Master Apts 1014
New York, New York.

Mrs. N. D. Woodworth
Riverview, R. F. D. 4
Little Falls, Minn. .

VIA AIR MAIL

Dear Laura Jane:

Friday, March 19-1948

After going about in a happy daze all day, I still feel staggered over your gift which arrived in perfect condition at 9 A.M.

Fortunately I had nothing important to do because I began to play Hensel + Gretel at 9:15^{AM} and continued until time to get my husbands lunch — and resumed the pleasant task and I still can't believe that all that beautiful music is mine to enjoy as often as I choose to play it.

I would have been delighted to have recieved one record from the opera, but to have the entire opera is actually more than I can grasp at the moment and every voice is perfect. I think Helma Volipka has everything! She is lovely as the Sondheim and just right as the Witch and all the others are wonderful. I liked John Brownlee, the father, especially well — Rise Stevens and Nadine Connor are very similar in tone quality — I loved the No 13 — and the lullaby so much —

2 - I hadn't really appreciated our new
G.E. combination fully until I used these
records - I think you'll like the machine.

What, in heaven's name, can I ever do
for you that will give you a corresponding
amount of pleasure? I wish I knew.

I can't even find the words I'd like to
use to express my thanks for these hours
of delight I shall have - How I should
like to share them with - Laura B. - She
would be a perfect audience, wouldn't she?

Thank you for the Church Bulletin - I
found it very interesting and hope you'll
enjoy the morning services as well as you
have the evening ones -

I'm glad to say Margaret's baby is well now
and none the worse for his siege - I am
writing her tomorrow about your gift -

All I can do now is to say over and
over again, "Thanks a Million" and I
mean it sincerely - I am overwhelmed
I am flabbergasted, I am Deeeelighted
You are a marvelous Friend indeed.
Much love — Grace

April 6, 1948

Dear Laura Jane,

I received your wonderful letter today and was so glad to hear from you so soon. This letter no doubt will be a surprise because it isn't two or three months late as usual.

20 pages!! Laura Jane, that was the longest, most interesting letter I have ever gotten. You certainly lead an exciting life! Most people don't have the excitement in a life time that you have in a month. What's even more wonderful, you make your own friends with your warm personality!! Mine. "Tippy" sounds wonderful, she must be a grand person to know, I would like so much to meet her sometimes. The Metropolitan Opera Co. isn't coming

to Detroit. Now I wish they were. In the fall, the Philadelphia Inquirer Co usually appears at the Masonic temple for ~~at~~ a week or two.

The Detroit theater productions are so amateurish. Last week I saw "Babes in Toyland" put on by the Detroit Civic players. Every season they put on Ten operettas of 1 weeks duration apiece. This was the first I had seen, and was fairly disappointed! These are supposed to be "tops" in Detroit theatrical productions, but was more like a "Burlesque".

We do however get many Broadway productions when they go on the road. Last week Miss Durham's Tropical Love was here, I didn't see it though.

~~You~~ You certainly saw your share
of Opera's this season, and you met
so many of the stars. So you met
Lise Stevens & didn't like her any
better than you did before!

This Winter I heard most of the
Saturday afternoon matinees of the
Operas and enjoyed them so much.

Sometimes I regret that I hadn't
majored in Music instead of Chemistry,
because I love it so. But, perhaps
after I get my degree, I can do
some work in that line. I like
school so much. I'm afraid I
would die of sheer boredom if
it wasn't for it.

My cousin, the one I'm living
with, was engaged on Easter. She's
only two weeks older than I.
She wants to finish college and

work for a year before she gets married. I hardly think this is wise though because her school work will certainly suffer. ~~It~~ That will be an engagement of three years which is quite long, don't you think. She is going to be a nurse, and probably would make a good one, but she's hardly the Motherly person Mme. Votjka is! It seems strange she'd want to be a nurse ("Tippy" that is). A person with a beautiful voice like her's, I think should sing all the time, and nursing ~~is~~ is hardly a place for a singer.

How is Philippa? When you see her and her mother

please give them my love. I think
the world of them both.

Saura Jane, what ever happened
to little Ali Babba? Did
Pauline finally give in ~~to~~ and
let you keep him as is he
back with the Schylers?

Well Saura Jane I've just about
exhausted my writing ability,
maybe someday I shall be able
to write a letter ~~and~~ almost as
interesting as yours.

With Much Love,
Bernadine

P.S. What a darling cartoon!

I'm keeping them all!! and
am looking forward to the next!



Miss Laura Jane Musser
210 Riverside Drive
1014
New York City
New York

Miss Bernadine Lake

18658 9.

Detroit, 19, Mich.

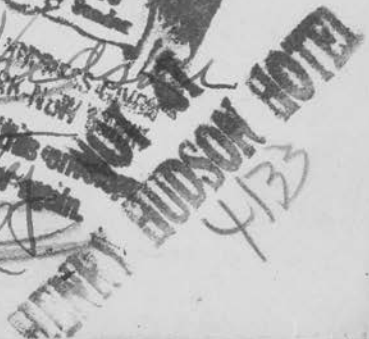
310 Riverside Drive

Mr.
Miss Laura Jane Messer

~~9 Rue Henry~~

~~New York~~

~~New York~~



From

Mrs W.K. Moyer

402 First Street S.E.,

Little Rock -

Arkansas

Oh course
back today
How are you?
I should wonder how you
are.



RADIO CITY
STATION

My dear Laura Jane -

Your very interesting letter and package were here waiting for me when we got home two weeks ago. I was so pleased to get "Pink Clover." I love it - and thank you dear for thinking of me - and I did enjoy your most interesting letter. I am so glad for you that you will be pleasantly situated and I do hope it will be for the rest of the year - This morning about is not conducive to a happy way of living - How very interesting and - I would say exciting for me - to meet such nice people - and people who are doing things - and this Mrs. Gannini does sound as tho she could & would be a real pal - How grand for you if you can

have her apt for the summer. and
I hope you may. Outside of coming
back here to see your Father Mother,
so little is here for you. I know you
have many many contacts but people
drift about so these days its hard
to count on many, don't you find
it that way?

Our stay in Texas was much longer
than we had planned - for when
we left I did plan to start back right
after New Years - I left in such a hurry
& I didn't have any mail or my Xmas
packages sent to me for I was so
sure we would be ^{back} here before they
arrived in Texas - Then the weather
began its work & we just could not
leave on account of icy roads -
I haven't had my nose out doors since
we got back, its been so very cold
and so much ice with a little coating

² of you that walking hasn't been the best. It can't last much longer now and when it does come warm & sunny how quickly we will forget how very cold we were.

I liked Corpus Christi very much and we had many drives around that part of Texas in fact drove over 4000 miles of while there.

I took an apt when I found we had to stay, I was right on the water - Aunt's place was nice but I wanted to be near the water.

Your Mother, Father & Ellie were up one day. It was so nice to see them - & they were all looking so well. I have only talked with her by phone since.

Wasn't it tragic that Bert and Grand had to end up their today.

the way they did? But how very
lucky they were. I haven't seen
Berb yet but Jane has been down
several times. Ida hasn't made the
recovery I did so hope she would
make. Jane saw her yesterday &
said she seemed better to her for
she asked about different ones etc.

Alice has her hands full for I think
she has Beka now to look after
besides looking after Ida.

Paul has been in several times. I
really was surprised when I
knew she was staying here. I
just stopped here and phoned her &
I'm so glad for she is so fine tonight.
I just ratted on like a magpie I
talked so fast. I truly know all the
loneliness & heart ache she is going through.
Time may soften but one never can forget the
love & companionship of one they have shared so
many years together. Promise if you have time
I love you both - & my love dear always. Odie

member - so, as you can guess, I will be a mite busy this year. I've finally confessed to myself that unless I make myself make time for these things I will just go on hiding under the excuse that I have a fairly new child - and when you come down to it - most women to give a lot to their community have more than that - so, I must build a little fire under me and get busy or I'll get into one o' those "I haven't the time" ruts!

Well, my dear, this has been a rather lengthy chat and rambling as usual - but then you know that is the only type of letter I ever write - the poor reader has to sort it out and do the best she can! Take care of yourself and don't work too hard. Write when you can or the spirit moves you. I do love to hear about what you are doing, you know.

Much love always,

Shirley

January 11, 1948

Dearest Laura,

All's quiet on the nursery front and Bob is banging away at some shelves in the basement - he's promised them for ages and this was one New Year's resolution I have made him keep - old Simon Le-Gree me! So - I thought it would be a good time for me to add to the clatter and snap off a note to you on this trusty machine o' mine. Poor Mary Lee - if she sleeps through all o' this I will begin to think that her hearing isn't all that it should be - only I know better! Ever try to tip toe past a baby's door when the little rascal doesn't want to take a nap? Well - at that moment you know the punkin can hear a pin drop! So - maybe she will not hear all this thunder - we hope. Teething has made her a bit fussy - and I would hate like the dickens to have to console her at this time o' night - yet, I insisted on those shelves - so guess I'll have to take all of the consequences, won't I.

Was so glad to get your letter and to know that you were able to be home for Christmas - though it must have been a hectic dash to get there and back again - and back to what - the Big Snow! My - that must have been some experience! The papers were full of it and the radio did its bit, too. Hope you weren't snow bound some place, but safe and sound at the Hotel!

Sorry to hear that your Mother is still not quite up to par - do hope that she will get some renewed strength before long. And as you say, the excitement of the holidays would tend to make her nervous. Yet, I know it did her good to have you. Suppose, too, that the house was full of relatives and that sometimes can be too much of a good thing - and you know what I mean by that!

How I envy you all those wonderful operas - I do so want to see one at the Met one o' these days.

Do you recall when the Met came to Minneapolis and put on some three operas? Well - it would have to be my luck that I was leaving for Tucson just two days before that event - and there was nothing I could do to change my plane reservations. I was so disappointed! I have heard Jan Peerce, though, and he has a glorious voice. And I have liked Pinza, too and have you heard Richard Crooks this season? Seems that I haven't heard his name mentioned for some time. You mentioned how well Thelma Votipka acts - and isn't that a pleasure - so often a glorious voice is the end and you do rather miss at least a semblance of creditable acting. You asked if we had a phonograph and we do have - plus a few records which are just a beginning. But then you know that there is just so much elastic one can put into the old dollar these days - and we have to add to our collection as we can. So - of course, we would be delighted to have the opera "Hansel and Gretel", but, my dear, I do think that would be depriving you of them and that must not be. Your lovely thought, though, warms the very cockles o' me heart!

Now - as the proud Mommie ever talking about her offspring - how do you like this snap o' Mary Lee? Isn't she a little sweetheart? I do hope that you will be able to see her one o' these days in the not too far distant future. Maybe when you come home this summer you could skip down for a few days and see all of us - that would be fun! Anyway - she told me to be sure to slip this in for her "Aunt Laura" - and I said I would do that very thing for her - and, here it is! She also told me to tell you that she is creeping like a vine - sitting up with nary a waver - and standing, too, if there is something to hang on to for dear life - and believe me, Mommie is right there to try to stop those sudden crashes which come every few minutes. Poor little head - why it isn't battle scarred, I'll never know! (Excuse that - never did teach this machine to spell!)

What else to tell you - oh, yes - Rosemary Olsen Siefert and Pete drove to Little Falls for the Holidays - did you see her? She is planning on stopping here to see us on their way back to San Diego. My, how nice it will be to see her again after these many years. And - of course, to get all o' the local gossip - just a couple o' tabbies - but harmless, I assure you! I'll pass on all the juicy tit-bits to you in my next letter - yes, I promise to write more often than before - part o' my New Year's resolutions!

After our taste of blizzard - the tail end of yours - we have been having almost spring-like weather which I love. You know I'm not much for hard cold winters anymore - must be getting old, I tells me. Bob had to get some chains for the snow as so wet and deep that you just couldn't get a car through it. But now Old Sol has taken things into hand again - and we have lots o' water here and there.

I've been having a bit of a fling at some club work - much as I usually object to the run-o-the-mill clubs - they generally bore me for they are all alike - lots of chatter and nothing ever done. But, I have been doing some advertising work for our Service League - we aren't big enough of a city for a Junior League so this rather fills in that purpose - and it has been a bit interesting. We sponsor a Mardi Gras Ball every year and all of the money goes to the hospitals and the Handicapped Children. So - I have made up a booklet - same as you get at Ice Follies and the like - and we have sold space to local businesses - and the total to date is \$1640 - not bad to pass on to these worthy causes, do you think? And last Thursday I found that I had been appointed the Social Education Cahirman for our Church - so, what ever that all entails - I must be learning and trying to do the job - I think it consists of programs to better give us all a picture of the church functions. My - what a job to give me - oh, well, I don't imagine it will hurt me to learn a little more about it, too. One of my speakers is to give a talk on the Racial Question and I understand that the talk is very worth of the subject. What's more I am to be a new P. E. O.

Mrs. Robert Lee Anderson
759 Riverside Lane
Ottumwa, Iowa



743
H

Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Hotel Biltmore #743
New York City, N. Y.

MAIL CLERK

JAN 14 12 37 PM '48

Komtrouge
1401 Half St SW
Wash. D.C.



74³
H

Miss Laura Musser
Biltmore Hotel
44th Street & Vanderbilt
ave
New York City
New York.

MAIL CLERK

JAN 14 12 37 PM '48



3



1/12/47

the Schuylers, and always
remember both "Marion
Anderson & the Schuylers
are over night developments
with out a strong foundation.
They both have a lot to
learn". The next time you
feel blue just think of
these two little brown
kiddies of mine who
think their Aunt Lottie
is just what the

Dear Laura Jane:

I rec'd your very very
sweet letter today, and
as usual so very very
glad to hear from you.

I was very sorry to
learn that your X-mas
was not as happy as



Aunt Lottie
what the

doctors ordered.

Lottie
mabel

KITTEN
Signature
TRADE MARK
of
KITTEN



expected; however. life is
made of heart aches, and
disallusions, and at the
time when one least
expects it, it is Johnny
right on the spot. I hope
you will not let the
pettiness of people like
the Schuylers and Marion
Anderson make you lose
confidence in the beautiful
friendship of people ~~who~~ ^{who} are
your real friends. For example,
you and I have, at times,
had disagreements, but,
the fact that you and I
both treasure each others
friendship to the highest,
makes us immune to
pettiness. As I have
always told you and my
friends, you are one of
the truest, sweetest,
most sincere friend that
I have ever had. I treasure
your friendship so highly.

just dont worry your
sweet head about neither
marion Anderson nor

WB
1C



MAR 28 1948

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Hotel Biltmore
New York City, N. Y.

#743

Mrs. Robert L. Anderson

759 Riverside Lane, Ottumwa, Iowa

MAIL CLERK

MAR 18 2 34 PM '48

Well, my dear, do write when you can and tell me all about yourself and what you have been doing..

Much love to you,

Shirley

Mrs. Robert L. Anderson

759 Riverside Lane, Ottumwa, Iowa

My dear Laura Jane,

I am in a quandry - do I owe you a letter or do you owe me one? Anyway - I must be getting absent minded, for I can't recall whether or not I wrote you and told you how very thrilled and happy we are with the album. Honestly, Bob has nearly worn it out - and everytime some one comes in - nothing will do, but they must hear at least parts of it. I don't know when any gift has been more appreciated or enjoyed. So - if I have failed to thank you properly before - please forgive me, and know how much we are enjoying your gift.

Such a state of affairs we are in - first of all, I think I did tell you about the store burning back in September, didn't I? There goes that memory of mine again. Well, anyway it was some fire - everything up in smoke. So - re-modeling has been going on and at long last it place is begining to look like something again. The opening may be by the middle of May - with luck! So - Bob has been busy as can be and now we are trying to get away by the 15th for Tucson. Yes, we are going to dash out to see Mother and Dad. Dad hasn't seen the baby yet and I do want him to before she is a year old - then she is no longer a real baby. I am going on the train - Bob finally managed to get me a compartment on the Imperial and he will drive. Then if all goes well - we will all try to drive back. I don't know how Mary Lee will act - but we will

just have to hope and try it. Mother is so excited, of course, and Dad can hardly wait for us to arrive. They wanted me to come sooner by flying. But the weather has been quite bad and I didn't want to chance it. We could be held over any place due to fog or such and I don't want to risk that with a baby who is still on a feeding schedule and unable to understand any form of verbal reasoning. I would probably end up in a straight jacket if I had that happen! You can imagine what bedlam it could be!

I am taking out the gorgeous silk sacque and the coat and cap set you gave Mary Lee - I am so proud of them, my dear, and she looks just adorable in them. My, how I wish you could see her - and remember what I said about coming down to see us if you find the time this summer. I must start shopping around for some new dresses and bonnets - but truly, I just haven't had the time. She looks so darling in little short skirts and believe it or not - she knows it and pats herself and beams all over. Vain mischief! I have been hunting for one of those dress and pantie sets - but no luck here - perhaps I'll find something in Tucson. Really, you have so little choice here and I can't buzz up to Des Moines at the drop of a hat.

Did I tell you that Rosey was to come and see us on her way back to San Diego? Well - she came last Sunday and stayed until Wednesday noon. All too short a visit, but we chattered like magpies until she left. It was so good to see her and hear all the news again. I mean, first hand. Pete has bought a locker and meat business in Pine River - that is, he is one of two partners - and they will make their home there. Rosey isn't too keen about leaving San Diego and coming back to such a small town. But then, it may be a very profitable adventure - at least, I hope it will be. I guess Pete has been a little unsettled about what he wanted to do ever since he came back and this is one thing he seems to want to do. So - they are trying it. Rosey had to return to the coast to ship things and such.

Have you had another blanket of snow? We are wallowing in the stuff and how glad I will be to get into some sunshine for a little while. Chains were the only thing that kept our car going this past week - and I don't like it. Maybe we will have Spring by the time we return - I hope. I am going to try to put in quite a flower garden this Spring - I couldn't last year for I wasn't able to see the tops of my shoes right at that time! You know - Mary Lee was just about due. So - I do hope to get it started soon. I have been looking through all kinds of garden books and with luck, we should have some nice blossoms. You know how I love flowers.

Bob's mother had a birthday yesterday so I am having a dinner for her Sunday and I must make the cake this afternoon. But I won't start until Bob is home to hide her on the punkin. That's why I have this time to chat with you. She is napping - but if I started a cake - she would wake right up and holler to get up - and the old cake could turn out to be most anything! You know how that is. They seem to know when you don't want to bother with them and that's when they decide to make an issue of it - and believe me - they usually win!



Miss Laura Jane Musser

Biltmore Hotel

43rd + Madison Ave

(Room 743)

N. Y. C. 16.

B. Mandaga. 495 W. E. Ave
N. Y. C.

MAIL CLERK

JAN 12 8 58 AM '48

495 West End Ave
New York

Ma Chere

Next Thursday the
15th will be free all
afternoon, untill 5.30.

If convenient to you
would like to see you

and have a chat.

Please let me know.

Mille Loune Jensen

Berthe Wardaga

Friday 9th

Tr. 7. 7626

February 24, 1948

Dear Lotsie,

At last that long intended letter!
And with it comes much hope for a definite visit from you!
I've just finished checking Jim's and my calendar of
Spring Vacations--a calendar much complicated by my
having a new job---(more about that later)--and Jim's
planning to work most of the vacation on ~~some~~ writing
he's been wanting to do!--but after checking carefully,
one clear weekend does emerge and we hope so very much
that you will be able to come spend it with us. It is
the weekend of the 13th and 14th of March--just a little
less than three weeks away!

I will be working until 4:00 on Friday
but want you to come for Friday night anyway. Why not
try and arrive between 4:00 and ~~6:00~~ 6:00 Friday, stay
Friday night, Saturday, Saturday night and Sunday. That
would give us one full day and part of two others, and
two nights. O.K.? I hope so!

As for entertainment, I'm not sure what
we will do as Wallingford is not quite as well equipped
for that as New York but we'll have a nice reunion anyway.
I will plan to have a few friends in to meet you at some
point if they are not all away on vacation. Choate people
seldom stay around long during vacation time! But I
hope they will not all be gone.

I also feel I must warn you that the
only extra bedroom we have is a vacant one of one of
the boys. You'll have to pretend you're in boarding
school for ~~one-a-couple~~ couple of nights,--and if
you're good Jim will let you have "lights".

But we do look forward to seeing you
and showing you Choate and hearing about your last few
months--and incidentally, you've never sampled my
cooking, have you? Probably just as well! Neither
have you met Sue!--Excellent cat that he is!

We have had a simply ~~surperg- cerpurb~~ superb (got it at last) winter! There are those who didn't appreciate the snow--in fact there's little doubt but what I'm in the minority when I say I loved it--but all will agree that this has been the most beautiful winter in a long long time. I suppose that by the time you are here all will be slush and mush and dirt,---and our beautiful snow will no longer be beautiful. We have already had one good thaw--scarcely remedied by a two inch fall Sunday--but I'm still hoping for more. If ~~if~~ it's cold enough and if you have them with you, you might bring you skates. I'm learning and loving it.

About my new job which I promised to tell more of. The Head of a small private school nearby died about a month ago and her assistant asked me to teach for the rest of this year. So I have been and I love it! It's hard work, though, and I find I have very little time left when all else is done. I will tell you all about it when you come and I'm sure you'll have some good laughs at me teaching all ages from pixies to eight graders! 'Tis fun, though.

Jim sends greetings and we are both eagerly awaiting your reply. Here's hoping it will be favorable!

Affectionately,

Lynn

Mrs. James M. Taylor
Choate School
Wallingford, Conn.

MAR 6 - 1948



Miss Laura Jane Musser

Biltmore Hotel

Room 743

New York City

Mrs. C. F. Hresh
302 N. W. 2nd
Little Falls, Minn.

1/43
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Miss Laura Jane W. Bissell
Hotel Biltmore, #743
New York City.



January 16 - 48

My dear Laura Jane

'It does not seem possible that you were home for the Christmas Holidays. You came and left again before we could see anything of you. We were all so sorry we did not see you when we stopped in at the house on Christmas day. I wanted to thank you for your kind

remembrance. I am enjoying the soap and powder very much.

We are in the grip of a very severe cold snap, - 24 this morning, and the weatherman has nothing good to offer for the balance of the week. It would not be so bad if we were not threatened with a severe shortage of fuel oil. We are bundled up like eskimoes most of the time.

Your Mother and Daddy were over last evening and gave Doctor and me a good trouncing at bridge. They were +16 at the end of the evening, and feeling very happy.

Tonight we are going to see Green Dolphin Street. It is supposed to be very good. I am so glad you are having such a delightful time attending the Opera and seeing good movies. New York must be very

exciting this time 7 year.
Do keep well and don't let the "Flu
germ" catch up with you.

Again I want to thank you
for your thoughtful gift.

Doctor joins me in sending
love and best wishes
Regina.



Miss. LAURA JANE MUSSER
The Buckingham Hotel - # 1206
57th St. & 6th Ave
New York City, N. Y.

Mrs. N. D. Woodworth
Riverview, R. F. D. 4
Little Falls, Minn.

Dear Laura Jane:

Your happy, interesting and most decorative (stationery) letter came just as our HEAT WAVE arrived - We had really had a cold spring and I, for one, was praying for sunshine for my arthritis - but I didn't require quite so much or at least all in one big batch -

It took the tick out of all of us - and I found myself doing the minimum of work - in fact I just washed the middle of my face - 

Anyway we have had a respite and today was just perfect - I could just lick my weight in wild cats - (but not even a tame cat came along to lick)

Mother was really tuckered out but she did fairly well at staying out of bed - I warned her that she would lose all she had gained if she gave up because she was hot and just staid in bed - Every day she valiantly tried to do her duty -

2 Today she was sitting on the porch when I got there and staid there 2 hrs - She looks pretty frail and so feeble when she walks - but eats well and sleeps like a kitten, so it could be worse -

I was so interested in hearing about your new friends - I have read many of Miss De Roule's articles in Post + Colliers - I'm glad Mme. Kotipka liked the lanky but I told her it was not necessary to write me - I would hear of her thru you -

The summer before I was married I spent in Cincinnati with two aunts there I met Dr. Roberts's sisters there and Effie Roberts took me to the Zoo to hear the Concert in the Shell there - It is a most interesting place and the people are all German and love good music - There were tables where one could eat and drink beer as one listened to the music.

It was something like "The White City" in Chicago - You have probably been there for "Music under the Stars" -

3- Neil and I are delighted over being invited to Pine Beach next week for two or three days with the Mussers and I know we will have a lovely time - I wish you were there to show me how to swim! I still play around on an inner tube but I have fun anyway.

I am mailing a little afghan I made and I hope it will give you pleasure to use it as a gift for your next baby shower - It seems to me you are always buying baby presents - I have the yarn to make a large one next winter in various shades of brown -

I am having fun doing some oil painting - Peter Hunt and Sweedish and Pennsylvania Dutch - I want to do a lot of things for our basement room - I have trays to decorate etc I love to do it but I do need a good instructor - I must say Good night & I'll write again soon - Love - Grace

St Cloud, Minn
May 18, 1948

Dear Laura Jane,

Thanks for the sweet letter. Not hearing from you any more has made me very sad, but also very ashamed because I don't deserve your attention after the stupid clumsy things I've done.

The package I sent was the best valentine I could find in St. Cloud. It went to Little Falls and other places, but was returned to me with the inscription ^{the} it be returned to the sender. This made me very sad, but also very ashamed because I had assumed ~~were~~ ^{we} were still friends. So you can see the resulting misunderstanding.

I'm attending the first summer session, but not the second. I think I should get away from books for a month or so. I plan to fish and swim and relax generally. My brother

in-law is building a cottage
near Shabapee so I'll help
him I suppose. It'll be nice
to get away since August is
the hottest month of the year.

Hope you have more time
next time you're home. May-
be then you and I can go
out for an evening of fun.
I think that's the tonic I
need more than anything
else. Maybe you enjoy a
good time too doing what
ever you please.

We'll just called you on the
telephone and I feel wonderful.
I told ~~you~~ ^{you some} of the things I
have in this letter, but I
am sending it anyhow. I
hope, if I'm lucky and if
you're not too busy
with your music to get
a letter from you soon.

Yours truly,
Lenny



Miss Laura Jane Musser
310 Riverside Dr. #1014
New York City, N.Y.

Karl. Kallen
829 Second Ave. S.
St. Cloud, Minn.

Mrs. John F. Rose

3491 No. Mountain View Drive San Diego, California

May 10, 1948

Dear Laura Jane,

I bet it seems good to be back home again and I know you are enjoying yourself. I only hope you will be in Minnesota long enough for me to get a chance to see you!!!!

Here are my plans. Mary and I are leaving next Monday (May 17) for Minneapolis and will be there a month or longer. Then for two months more, we'll be bumming around Minnesota---Little Falls, Brainerd, St. Cloud, Pine River and Bemidji.

If you should be in Minneapolis in the next month, and you no doubt will, you can reach me at my sister's, Louise.

Mrs. Alden D. Foster
3309 Brownlow Avenue
St. Louis Park, Mpls.
Tel. No. Whittier 9031

I'm very anxious to spend the summer in Minnesota. I really didn't intend to go back this year but you perhaps know that Rosemary and her husband left San Diego and bought a business in Pine River. I miss her so much and she was the closest friend I had here, so I just decided to go back for the summer. Louise had another baby (born the same day that your sister, Mary, had her baby too). I'm so anxious to see the new baby and all my sisters, and my good friends.

You'll be pretty surprised at Mary. She has grown up so much since you've seen her. I'm enclosing a picture of her with that little pink dress (with the rose in it) that you sent her from Miss Brogan's.

I'm anxious to see you and hope we can arrange a good get-together in Mpls.

Love,

Dave & Mary

Airmail



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls, Minnesota

Mrs. John F. Rose
3491 No. Mountain View Drive San Diego, California

Airmail

best wishes to your mother
and father - I'll think
of you as I pass those
northern boundaries.

You can reach me
at Mr. St. L. Colge - 371
Central Park West - NYC
after May 1st -

All my love,
E. L. Hor

April 10, 1948

Dearest Laura,

Your idea sounds grand.
If I were able to manage I
believe there could be nothing
that would please me more
than to stay with you and
return to N. Y. (the three of us).
As the situation stands
I must report for work the
6th of June to the N. Y. office
of the telephone company. I
was granted a transfer and
am glad it was granted, as
I never know; I may
need the job regardless.
Between you I and the
lamp post - I don't think
Mr. Colge is able to financially

support three of us.

Besides Madame
Totipka will be your guest and
Bruce and I will be too
much trouble. My main
problem is to get to N. Y. soon
and get settled before
starting work. I must
also find someone to take
care of Bruce (besides ~~git~~
problem) In all probabilities
I'll have to stay with friends
(and I haven't the slightest
idea whom to ask)

Yes, it will be wonderful
to see you after some 4 or 5 years,
Laura.

I am truly sorry we

can't visit you this trip.
How many a time I've
promised myself that extra
long trips should I ever go
Eastward.

I am sure you will
enjoy yourself at the Met's
performances - they'll be in
Calif. soon after that.

Bruce and I went
to see the circus yesterday.
He was so excited and
thrilled to the skies! Of
course we bought pop-corn,
peanuts and he drank coco-
It was Clyde Beatty; circus
horns, tigers, elephants etc.

Please extend my

VIA AIR MAIL



Miss Laura Jane Messer
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minnesota

13
F.B. Yoon
803 1/2 Venice Blvd
Los Angeles 15

JAMES MONROE TAYLOR
THE CHOATE SCHOOL
WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

January 5, 1947

Dear Lotsie:

Your book on music--behind-the-scenes stuff--was a knock-out! I have already read most of it and have been fascinated. You were inspired when you decided to send us that. Thanks so very much!

Your mother has written of what a grand Christmas she had with you at home. I guess the day itself offered peculiar situations, but she was certainly happy having you with her. I've already told you, I know, of how much we enjoyed seeing your father and mother last July. We had a simply superlative visit and were impressed with the good health which each of them possessed.

We were so much interested in your visit to Fiske. Apparently, it's quite a place. Jim and Nancy St. John both wrote very pleasantly of your visit. They're very fine people indeed. How did the faculty as a whole strike you? Are there very many other white? (My ribbon seems to be giving out, doesn't it?)

Our boys return day after tomorrow. Much as I love them, I could give them another week or two without shedding a tear! I do not know just when we can join you for another visit, but I hope very much that it will be sometime in the next two months. What a pity that you don't still have the apartment! Any chance of your having it again this winter? While you were in Little Falls, we were in NYC, catching up on theater, etc. I should much rather have been in Little Falls!

Do let us hear how things are going and for how long you will remain in NYC, this stretch.

Much love from us both,

Jim

1743
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Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Biltmore Hotel
43rd & Madison
New York
New York



JAMES MONROE TAYLOR
THE CHOATE SCHOOL
WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT



MAIL CLERK
JAN 8 7 36 AM '48

one should never forget it.

Enough of the intangibles-

Affectionately Yours,

Ruth Hultkrans

P.S. Saw your mother and father in church - they looked well. We had 16 in the choir - did Stainer's "God So Loved the World" - John Longley's voice is getting better all the time - he studied at the U. of Minn. last year - Bert Gretum, who studies with Mrs. Huls in St. Cloud sang with us too. He is doing very well. I am trying to wrangle solos from these two boys for August.

Little Falls, Minn.
July 11, 1948

Dear Laura Jane,

Richard writes enthusiastic letters from the Pacific, he says the sea is the most exciting thing in the world and that he is having the time of his life. John is at Camp Hiawatha at Deer River having a nice summer, working part time and otherwise doing archery, rifle range, advanced swimming and tennis.

Ruthie and I, are really leaving for New York with the Van Kirs July 28 - it seems utterly unreal - a dream

The Democratic Convention begins tomorrow. As one listens over the radio it makes one think about the play "State of the Union" How true a picture it depicts. The People's Choice certainly does not always win. I had hoped that Stassen would get the Republican nomination.

I enjoyed your description of Madame Vatipka's birthday card. She really must be fun. People in the art world seem to be so whole souled and free. I always feel so inhibited and stilted at first when with someone like that but after a while I feel released and warm and vital too. Each person has his own very personal message to deliver in this world - all equally important -

about to come true. Richard loved New York - he made you feel as tho the very skyscrapers bent to welcome him personally and now the Pacific is doing the same. I know that it is a point of view, an open mind which makes the strange and new wonderful. Ruthie and I are going with the same spirit and I know it will be thrilling.

We will go to 600 Morton street where Uncle George, my husband's brother and his wife live. We will probably get there about August first. We want to see you too and I will call you. I hope it will not be too hot.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Buckingham Hotel #1206
5th Str. + 6th Ave.
New York City, N. Y.

193
Mrs. H. E. Luthrans
Little Falls, Minn.



MATTAPOLSETT
MASS.

Alice OLIVER

Mrs. John F. Rose

3491 No. Mountain View Drive San Diego, California

February 25, 1948

Dear Laura Jane,

Today I received your second lovely letter so I just will sit right down and answer it. I have meant to write sooner but it seems as if the time has just rushed by lately. We have had our house redecorated and you know what a mess one can be in for some time. Then too, I've been doing some sewing and when I start sewing I just forget about everything else. Right at present I'm trying to make a "mother and daughter" dress for Mary and me. When and if they turn out good, I'll take some pictures of us and send you some. Now that Mary is bigger, it will be so much fun for the two of us to have some clothes alike.

Marian Anderson sang here on the 22nd but I didn't go to her concert. After reading about her in your letter, I didn't have too much desire to see her as I had seen her last summer with you in New York. I'm enclosing a critic's opinion and think you'll be interested in it as he seems to feel as you do regarding her. Yes, she had better stop singing while she is still "on top", I would think too.

Mother and I saw Jeanette MacDonald and enjoyed her performance so much. She is so gracious and sweet and certainly touched her audience. As a matter of fact, she talked to her audience, explaining some of the songs she sang; and the critic seemed to think this was out of the way as he certainly gave her a poor write-up. However, to the ordinary person, this was quite appealing and made her seem more down-to-earth.

I saw a line in a column that Anne Brown was going back to Europe to be married. Is that so? Imagine you are anxious to get your apt. in June. I've been trying to find an apt. for Mary and me but to no avail. Oh yes, I had a chance to rent a furnished house - but with a bachelor in it!!! We really are a little crowded in this house as Joan, Mary and I share the same room and although it is large, I would prefer an apt. of my own.

I have been playing "Hansel and Gretel" a great deal lately and surely do enjoy it and naturally you are in my thoughts all the time while I'm playing it. Do I remember "Finian's Rainbow" - well, I should say so. It was the first Broadway show I had ever seen and I can remember the thrill I experienced. I love the melodies that were played - Laura Jane, it is hard to believe, but right at this minute as I'm typing this, they are playing "How are Things in G." on the radio.

I am sorry to hear that Kenneth didn't prove up to your expectations, as I surely was hoping he would. I know how much it would mean to you to meet a nice fellow as it gets lonesome going with women escorts all the time. Well, Lotsie, your time will come yet. You have lead a good clean life and I believe that you will be rewarded for it by meeting the right kind of a man some day.

It is lovely here in California. The weather is a little chilly occasionally but for the most part, it is glorious. We took a little trip to Palomar Mountain, 65 miles from here, a week ago Sunday and tramped around in the snow. It was quite a thrilling feeling to go up in the snow and then come back to where it was warm and lovely. I'm enclosing a picture we took but it isn't very clear.

Did you know that Skippy Haatvedt and her husband and children are moving to San Diego. They sold their lovely home in L. F. Bob just couldn't stand the cold climate any more. I believe he is here now looking for a home and Skippy will move out here when he finds something. However, he hasn't called us so I'm not sure if he is here or not. I don't know much else of news from L. F. -- haven't heard from anyone for so long. Wasn't it a shame about Mrs. Hartman being hurt so seriously?

Will close for now, Lotsie, and hope this letter finds you well. I do enjoy receiving your letters and hearing all about N. Y.

Love from

Leone & Mary

FROM OUR SEAT

Miss Anderson Sings Before Large Crowd

By NEIL MORGAN

Marian Anderson sang last night at Russ Auditorium before one of the largest concert audiences of the season. Though Miss Anderson has lost none of the soulful in-



Morgan

It was this way last night.

tenseness or vocal excellence which lifted her to preeminence in American music, some of her deepest admirers were disappointed by last night's program.

The presentation of a concert, Miss Anderson implies, is a matter of unrivalled importance. Her approach to the audience is sober and proper—making her personality immediately felt, but sometimes so subtle, and so long in gaining warmth and spontaneity that the listener begins to strain for the singer to "take off the wraps."

Indeed, Miss Anderson devoted the first half of her program to a group of numbers which, with two exceptions, was uncommonly cold and unlyrical. It was almost as if here was an artist who long ago had mastered her medium and was setting up musical odds to overcome.

The opening group was Handel's "Floridante" and "Serse, Recitative and Aria," Frescobaldi's "Se l'aura spira," and Legrenzi's "Che fiero costume."

In a group of lieder, following, Miss Anderson gave her usual dramatic interpretation, with the "Suleika" and "Erl King" standing, as material, well above "Liebesbotschaft" and "Der Doppelgänger."

Her final offering of the opening half was the aria, "Pleurez mes yeux," from Massenet's "Le Cid," a work of no more than passing interest.

After this rather remote opening, Miss Anderson sang, as encores, two of her classics—"Comin' Thru the Rye" and "Songs My Mother Taught Me." An English group included "Yarmouth Fair." For utter musical perfection, Miss Anderson's rendition of these numbers is unrivalled by any living singer; but they are perhaps as extreme in their familiarity as Frescobaldi's aria is in its objectiveness.

Of her Negro spiritual group, with which Miss Anderson invariably closes her concerts, the Lawrence Brown arrangement of "Hear de Lam's a' Cryin" was freshest and most moving. This and "Nobody Knows the Trouble I See," which opened the group, displayed Miss Anderson's art at its dramatic acme.

Final encores included "Will o' the Wisp," Schubert's "Ave Maria," and "No Hidin' Place Down Here."



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