



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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[1950?]

Mother dear;

Thank you so much for answering my letter so promptly. It is such a joy always to hear from you & daddy, and know that things are well at home. You surely had a busy time in Minneapolis and was glad that Mary Lou K. could be with you. Dad surely must have enjoyed those Dickens. Knowing his liking always for good company, he must have been in his element. Mary & Helen were in N. Y. I didn't see Helen but just talked to her. Mary spent Tuesday night with me, and it was so wonderful having that little visit with her - even if it did upset my plans somewhat. On the past Tuesday, Linda Klein has wanted me to come to her apt -



The first time she asked me, I was
coming down with a cold! and then
we had already made plans for this
Tuesday when Mary's visit came
unexpectedly. Of course I had to do some
tall explaining, but she was very sweet
about it. In fact this morning I had
the sweet little note from her enclosing
two excellent clippings of philosophical
tid-bits! I'll copy them down so that
you may have a thimble too! Had evening
the Richter phone and asked me to

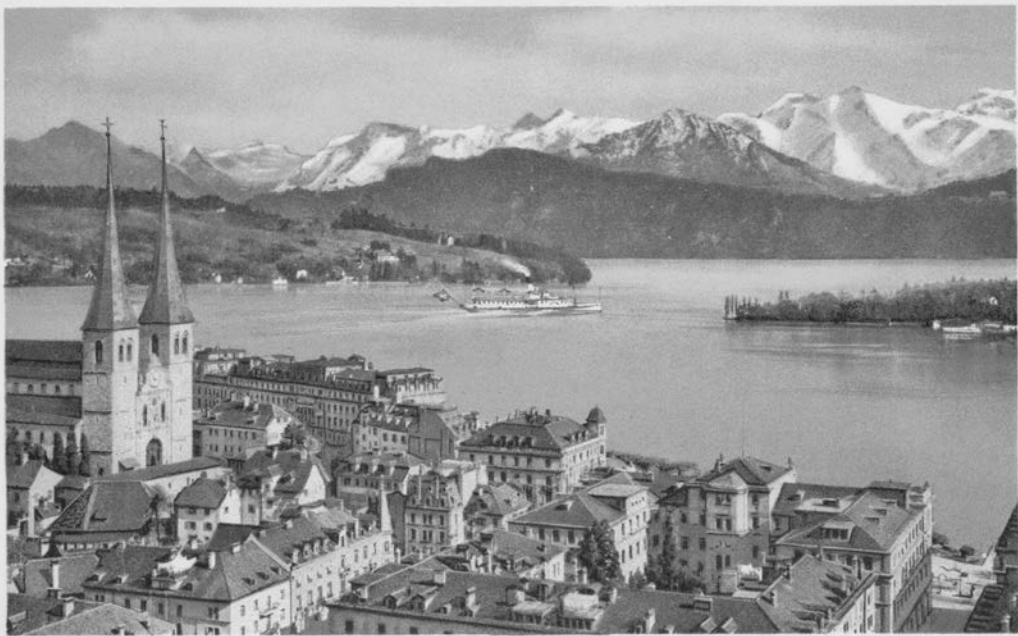
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Come to dinner & a movie - Told them about Mary's visit, and as I was ordering tickets for us to see Lost In The Stars, I ordered two more for the Richters - so they asked us for cocktails & dinner, and then we all went to the theater. It made the second time I'd seen it. Mary was darling, and I wished she might have stayed longer - She left Wed. PM. for New Brunswick, N.J. to visit Peg Taylor Hoffman (?) and then phoned to say she had to be on her way to Pittsburgh as the other three children have the chicken pox.

Last Sat. a friend, Senora Lafayette, whom I haven't seen in a year phoned to ask me to see "The Barrier" up at the Brander Matthews Theater at Columbia University. The play was put on by an amateur Co. and it was a quite intense performance - all about white Southern Country gentlemen, their Negro mistresses, & bastard children - As it was the last night, the group had a party afterwards to which Senora asked me to come. I met various members of the cast - including Bob Ross, who used to sing with the Lemonade Opera Co - The next night, Senora who has a beautiful voice and is a student of Mme. Giannini asked me to attend the St. Mark's Intercultural Choral recital in Harlem - I had a frightful cold, but went anyway with a couple from the Greenwich Church. Senora was soloist and really did a beautiful job - She surely has improved since I first knew her - Monday night, went to see Mme. Butterfly - a truly fine performance. Wed. night heard "Rigoletto" for the first time. Last night, "Lohengrin"; tonight go to the Greenwich Church, & tomorrow afternoon, "Carmen" - As you see I'm always busy! Am glad you're feeling better - Have fun and write soon - You know I love you - Laura Jane -



Luzern mit den Alpen

[19502?]

With So much love
AND GOD BLESS you
my DARLING
A VERY HAPPY BIRTH
DAY —

Sandra Jane

TO MOTHER DEAR
ON HER BIRTHDAY

1156 Globetrotter G.m.b.H., Kunstverlag, Luzern



on to New York —

I do so want to hear
from you both, so won't
you please write to me soon?

With much love,

Laura Jane.

October 15 —

[1950?]]

Dearest mother & daddy;

How delighted I was to
receive your telegram, and
to know that you reached
Casper safely. I'm so glad
you could be with Auntie.
It's an unselfish thing to
do, and I'm sure she appreciates
it more than she can say —
but alas! It was hard on me!
Oh! how I miss my darlings

to the girls - my students -
and they appreciated them
very much -

Miss Anderson's package
came. Contrary to my fears of
having left something there -
it was a magnificent picture
showing her to the best advantage
in a side pose. Needless to say
I appreciated the picture very
much -

Tuesday evening leave for
Minneapolis to spend a little
time with my friends and then

So far everything has gone
very smoothly. Pauline is
truly an excellent housekeeper.
We four get along beautifully!
The ladies at home have been
very nice to me! Bert &
Regina have taken me to
the movies at different times,
and Thursday Grace & Ida took
me over to the Church tea to
hear Mrs. Woodhall give an excel-
lent talk on "The need for Inter-
dependence among nations."
Today I gave quite a few things

And told me all about Carla May and her mother - She had seen them over vacation.

Yes, the rose knit dress has come and everyone including myself is wild about it. Indeed, I am keeping it! You have the most marvelous taste I have ever seen. Everyone is still remarking about that red & white polka dot silk dress you picked out.

How is this for a long letter? But you see I am telling you every bit of news I know. This Fri. eve. the Monticello trio is playing in Alton and we are all requested to go - You heard it you remember.

You mentioned that Helen Jensen was coming to see you - I think that is nice but do tell me all about your visit. I wish I could persuade her to come here to Monticello next year - I'm so glad Margaret Woodworth is so much better - Dr. Jettel must be marvelous - How is Aunt Laura getting along?

As I told you before, I've gotten quite enthusiastic over golf and I do

hope we can get quite a lot of it in
this summer -

Please, honey, do write me soon
and tell me all the news - And my
best love to the girls - Tell Pauline I'm
starving for word of some good home cooking.
See if that will arouse her sympathy?.

The singing teacher is getting ready
for her concert and has been practicing all
day, and her practice room is right near
the infirmary, and I've been obliged to listen
to her all day; so if this letter sounds funny
you'll know why - It's so gorgeous outside
I just hate to be cooped up! How is
spring progressing in Minnesota?

Fuzzy and Lily were just in
to say "Hello".

Well, goodbye darlings, and a
big letter from you both soon, I hope -
my love to Auntie - And worlds of love to
you - Lotsie -

Dad, did you know Mary Ann is secretary
to some business firm down in N.Y.C.?

April 29, 1950



Dearest Daddy;

Thank you so much for your letter and enclosure. I am so glad you and Mr. Leach have started a pleasant association, and that with Blanche Ingram's initial appearance, a really fine concert series may be started in L. F. I

The plans for the European trip are becoming a little complicated. I don't want to be extravagant, and asked Mr. Lancelotti to give

me an estimate - He got very annoyed at this question - I guess his used to dealing with big shots where the money is no concern, but hope that things will work out O.K. - I think Ruth will make a fine travelling companion - She is a darling!

How is mother - Haven't received an answer to my last letter, but don't blame her in the least, as I've been so slow with my "answers" -

Can hardly wait to see you etc etc -
With much love, Laura Jane -

out entirely (for gas escapes from it every so often) and have a new one put in. I have had been cases here at the hotel of illness caused by this escaping gas! Now I wish you and mother could see my place -

When does Alice get home?

With much love to you both,
And please keep well, strong and happy -

- Laura Jane -

Jan. 24, 1950

Daddy dearest;

What a darling letter you wrote me, and how dear of you and mother to send on my mail to me! I miss you both so much, and can hardly wait 'til spring when I'll be coming home for a short visit. It has now been over a week since I left Little Falls, that bitterly cold night. How sweet & thoughtful that was of you and Doctor Longley to help me with my numerous bags etc. I don't think I could have gotten on the train if it hadn't been for you - I am glad mother didn't attempt to come down and I know the party you gave for Uncle Hunt must have been loads of fun! Yes, that night's incident certainly frightened me. It happened while we were in the St. Paul Station, and both porter & conductor were outside on the platform, so I

couldn't reach them, but the dear God was with me, and altho' I was badly frightened, I was protected - but the seriousness of the situation of what could happen, made me use all the safety pins in my purse to pin up the curtain so it couldn't be unfastened again. There wasn't much sleep for me that night.

Had a nice visit & dinner with Ruth's mother in Chicago. Both she & her (Ruth's) Aunt in Minneapolis have been wonderful to me, Daddy. Some day, I hope you'll meet them. Incidentally, Mrs. Katy (Ruth's aunt) wrote you, and wrote a charming lovely letter - in which she mentioned how much she loved Iowa & knew some of the people you knew. It would make me very happy if you (or mother) would acknowledge that letter, for in a letter I received from Mrs. Katy today, she wondered if you'd ever received it. She's a dear person, and I don't want her feelings hurt for she did give me such a nice time at her home in Minneapolis. Ruth is my best friend, and any slight might

have been very much! If you don't have the time to write, could you phone her some time when you are down in Minneapolis? Her address is 4935 Penn Ave. South (Litchfield 0715 Tel. No.) You can just say you received his letter, and you indicated to know that she's also at your good. Just would be enough - I know you're the dearest daddy in the world, and always so understanding!

Do you still much miss at home? Are the pussy-willows are budding and the temp. is any where from 20° above to 40° or 50° - a very unusual winter for N. Y. - Just hope I keep well -

I hope mother is outliving her illness, and that she'll keep her weight down. Her eating seems to be her main problem. There's some quite a big crowd in the apartment. The only thing giving me difficulty now is the furniture. I may have to have it taken

Sunday School at 9:45 AM - a
terribly early hour for me to be up and
about but I manage. Last week, I
took the Stitts and Nancy Kendall
to hear Marian Anderson. It was a
beautiful concert and we all enjoyed
it so much - Marian was the
sweetest self, and was gracious
to us all afterwards. I forgot to tell
you, but I had given the photo tickets
before our "debacle," and to my surprise,
they turned up, and were most agreeable

A Gibson Card
Gibson, Inc. N.Y.C.
1477-7

1-

Jan. 28, 1958



Mother dearest;
Thank you so much
for your lovely letter
which I received today.
I was waiting for you to
write to me, and now
that it has come at last
I know how much my visit meant to you,
and want you to know how much it
meant to me to be home at a time when
I could be of service to you.

I have had a full time of²-
it since being back. There had to have a
lot of work done on the apartment - especially
the refrigerator for it is in very bad shape -
An old style one, it has been in the
hotel for years, and has to be jacked up
every so often. The gas has a bad habit
of escaping out. For this reason, I may
have to have a new refrigerator installed,
if I can find one that runs on D. C.
Current. I also have rented a piano
which is a decided addition to my little

home here. The furniture belongs to the
hotel, and is fairly good - The small
house has a defective spring, and
the worn beds are a little shabby -
and need better mattresses - We will
have repairs made, and make new
additions from time to time. Hope
there have been nice to me here, and
I have been quite active socially -
I still have the usual goodliness of the
Village Church every Sunday - There
to be down there to help out with the

"and appreciative. They sat next to Dr. Stitt, and liked him so much, and were happy that I'm going to his church. They asked me if I wanted to continue the lesson, and I said, "yes", and so we'll do it once more; so far it's working out all right, and Mr. Groth asked me to join his "young people's choir" so I have, and the members are really a nice bunch of people. The other day when Melma called up about a lesson appointment, she said she had to make it short, because she had a pupil coming to the church at 5 PM for a lesson. I asked her if she wanted me to come to the church instead of ~~her~~ her coming to my apartment, and she said "No", because there would be people at the church at that time who she didn't want to see or become involved with while waiting for me. I knew she meant Mrs. Abbott, and I now know that she no longer holds anything against me. In fact, at the lesson, she called me "her baby" as she has before, and doesn't want me to be surrounded with people who aren't interested in me as a person, so I guess she's really fond of me after all, and I hope this time we have peace for keeps. I've seen Jane a couple of times - she's her same gay self, and I do enjoy our Canasta games so much. Also have seen Linda Klein and tonight went to dinner at Mrs. Rupp's and took her to see an excellent musical called "Lost On The Stars". Also took the Richters last week to see "Memories At The Wedding" a very good drama - they took me to dinner. I miss Ruth so much! She took wonderful care of my apartment, and I've heard from her three times. She's so sailing! Took her mother to lunch in Chicago, and we had a nice visit only she was insistent that I get my hair styled! I had a letter from Mrs. Katy, and she

for a friend, and Jim will be
very grateful to him - You'll never
believe how much these things
can mean especially in a big city
where the strapped 9/10 folks,
corruption, and poverty dwell
yet find you will avoid poverty
wherever you go. I am I'm sure
wondering with immediate pleas-
sure how we can do so (the letter
in Denver I quoted). It used to
be impossible about the work of the
Colorado State Co. It was
the best thing in the world for
young people to have a chance
to be heard, and that is the

April 18, 1950

1-

Mother dearest,

How busy your
daughter has been

these past two weeks - Last week was
especially hard, and these next two
weeks until I get home will be taken
up with making plans, getting reservations,
and in short, trying to make the European
trip a reality - I'm so glad to have Ruth's



company - I think things will work
out very well between us, but a
great deal of the expense will be
beyond her, so we will try and
work something out so that she
can feel happy about it - You'll
probably hear from her in a day
or two! She won't come out until
sometime in June - Everyone is
so anxious to help us, and some
of their suggestions are God-sends.
Particularly are Mrs. Liden &
Mrs. Crofton anxious to help -
Mrs. Liden knows about hotels,
and will help as soon as we
ask our boys to send out such a list
to be of the aid of this week -
Well, I think the Blanche Peabody
and will send out to perfection. I
saw Mr. Jacob at home yesterday - But
won't ask me to help her work out details,
as that then would be no conversation about
the price set up - I mailed out the contract
and enclosed an explanation note about
the payment and publicity issues - Mr. Pe
really made things very easy for me. It
seems a lot to have a coherent manager

am so glad Mr. Bay & Mr. Wilson
were so nice about it, and anxious
to help out - also am so glad
grateful to Mr. Stimpert for the
splendid work he's done - We
love him one day soon!

The school night I took

dinner with Madame Gumm and
Mr. Dietter, and when told he
a little about my "correct" plans
for Little Falls - the audience
took me by the shoulders, and
said, "Well, since you, in your
work all our end for good, you
will have a great future as

5-



opera for the first time
in American Musical
History was doing this
very thing - Of course,
this art made Ruth
very happy! She's

such a fine person, and deserves the
very best! She told me that Lemonade
Opera may go on tour in the fall, but
this summer will not function, because
a great deal of work in reorganizing has
to be done - Mr. Savitt, former Director,

has joined the ranks of the "Met"
no less, and under Mr. Bing's
direction will train young singers
at the "Met" opera school. Ruth
may get a scholarship thru the
gift part of this program!
Wasn't it funny that I ran
into Miss Hulom at the Russian
tea room? Really, all these chance
meetings are beginning to seem
a little past mere coincidence!
She is very charming in a quiet
way. She was Ruth's escort
who looked so very familiar.
She here looked as if it had
been tried a bit for "thought it was"
much darker than it looked. The eyes
looked lovely. We make up our a bit
too much of the stage. It could have been
toned down a bit. Strongest - otherwise,
she is a very beautiful woman, and for a
young speaking singer, almost as lovely
as Miss Gledits. She told me how
much she appreciated my note - asked
me if it was a problem to give concerts in
a small town, and she said not at all -
so I think she worked very well -

and although the sun had melted
 a good deal of it there were still
 some bits of it under the bushes.
 I went over to the Centry to see
 the carpenter, and during the
 visit told me how the toads
 had been as I left some before
 a new new husband so we all three
 rode together. I was exhausted by
 the time I reached 7:45 -
 Sunday, I was very late for
 church, but managed to hear the
 sermon which was excellent - after
 dinner all Bill & I went with Ned &
 the girls. At four, Nancy gave a
 concert in the church - with some

a concert manager -
 maybe she's got some-
 thing there - eh?

Sat. Wed. eve -
 I went to the Town
 Hall concert. Mary

Spiffenberger told me to hear - the artist was
 a young singer named Phyllis Curtin, an
 alumna of Monticello. It was an interesting
 concert, but not particularly noteworthy! I
 think Curtin bears a striking resemblance
 to Dancie McElm on the stage. The next



afternoon, was the Alumnae
Luncheon held at the Barclay Hotel
of which Phyllis was the guest
of honor - Miss McMillen was
there as was Ruth Bryan Rhode -
It was a stimulating afternoon -
Phyllis is a sweet girl, pleasant
to talk to. I had quite a nice
chat with her.

Saturday, I went to Aubany
to attend Dolores' wedding - The
ceremony was held in Majors'
studio, and ^{the} 150 people who attended
it were a tight squeeze - I stood
at the back so saw Dolores when

she marched up the aisle - she looked
lovely in the christened Brides gown -
a deep fashioned collar of the quality I owned
in black silk - I did not know her a
very nice looking chap - and I was glad to
see him - I was in the audience - Dolores
I believe, I thought looked tired, but very lovely
to me - and helped me get my train straight
when she "went out" - she always looks so
about her! Her hair is beginning to look
darker with spring turning out the leaves
of hair! I had enjoyed the night before,

at all well - felt a little faint & 16
no doubt had some dramatic spirits
of harmony. she was worried for
her if her medicine (Phaladon)
would be the cure - I told her
that by thinking it was a fever, or
within an evening, would be cured by
the body, and her husband - I said
so she took it, and said she felt
much better - so much so that
she bought a bottle for her own
use - Melma gave me a lesson today
and was much delighted at my progress.
I really hope me a great deal.
Do please write me soon, dear yours
Lillian

down for it, so we
sat together. Nancy's
voice has improved
so much, and
everyone is so proud
of her achievement.

Ship leaving next week for Alliance, Ohio,
where she lives, to give a concert - Both
Ruth and I thought if she would do
more work along these lines she'd build
up quite a following - Ruth had a date
so had to leave early. I was feeling



rather blue & tired, so she made¹⁴
me come with her, and we
walked up to the Penn. station -
a distance of 20 blocks - she's
such a comfort when I get down,
and soon made me feel like
a million dollars! Left her
in a far more cheerful frame of
mind and continued up to the
Tabernacle to say "hello" to
Mrs. Belsky, and stay for the
meeting. It was after this that
we went to the Russian Tea
Room where I ran into Miss

Hebom.

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I forgot to mention that Sunday eve.

I attended another inter. with mothers
led by Mr. & Mrs. Belsky - the theme
was "Unity in diversity" - the topic was
simply led by Mr. & Mrs. Belsky, and
then approached three most interesting
questions: 1. After the meeting, and after
we left a delightful and pure on home

so very tired.

16
I forgot to mention that when I came down
to take me to dinner - she wasn't feeling