



Laura Jane Musser and
family papers.

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me the other day. I nearly wept because
it meant so very, very much to me - Your
love is the only thing I want & need, for
no one could possibly be what you've been to
me all these years.

I do hope you had a nice birthday -
I thought possibly that in my absence, Aunt
Laura would have made the trip.

Talked to Mr. Teick the other day,
and he is making a trip West. He said
he would try to see you on his way East.

The Barclay found they couldn't let
me have the room, so I am now at the
Shelton. The hotel is much run down, but
not too bad. The bed is comfortable, & the
food is quite good.

It is a cold damp day out. Haven

As usual, the crowds were decked out in all
glitter & gold! Rather a waste of time & money!

I was supposed to meet June for lunch
this noon, but she is ill with stomach flu -
She's quite ill with a temperature & had a fainting
spell yesterday -

I am leaving Sunday evening for Little
Falls - arriving there at 11:05 AM - Shall be, oh so
happy to see you, darling - Hope everything is all
right with you - I think this little vacation did me
good - even though I hate so - to leave you - Wish
you could have come with me -

Was over at the apartment yesterday, &
told Hannah what I wanted done with my things -
I am glad that I'm giving it up -

I love you so very dearly & miss you so -
- Laura Jane -

R. D. MUSSER

LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

February 15, 1955

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Room 1234
The Waldorf-Astoria
New York, New York

Dear Laura Jane:

Thanks for your letter, which came just at the time you said it would. I called it my Valentine for it came on the 14th.

Glad to note what you state of your thoughts and feelings and also the Operas or Symphonies that you have enjoyed.

I know there are times that you get very lonely in New York, for everybody is so busy and cannot do the things they would like. However, June is such a good friend that she loves to have you with her, and now that she is going to leave, it will be just one place less for you to go.

I had a nice letter from Margaret Taylor, which was for us both. If you get time to go to see her, I know she will appreciate it.

We have had very cold weather and you missed those bitter cold days and nights. Things are going on about the same at home and at the Green House, with the men still busy over there.

Little Timmie is good company and I think he misses you as much as anyone because he has no one to show him off the way he clings to your shoulder.

Nothing especially new, only I always do, as you know, get Valentines from Sarah, Sam, Helen and Drew.

I hope that you are keeping well and not worrying about things here, for we are getting along fairly well.

I will call you up soon again, for I think it is better to have little visits over the 'phone than long letters from home.

Devotedly,

Very lovingly
Your Father

RDM*S

Orabella. Last night I went to see "Peter Pan" -
Mary Martin is adorable as the impish & ever-
youthful Peter. Today, Lillian's birthday. I am
taking things easy, for if I get my rest, I can get
over this cold. Saw Helma a few minutes, &
she asked very particularly after you!

My love to all, & beautiful for you.
Please write when you can -

Love Jane

My phone no. at the Waldorf - is Eldorado - 5-3000
Room 1234 -

Jane & Billy are leaving for Antigua next week!
I miss the Perry Mason readings, do you?

Any mail may be forwarded to The Waldorf Astoria -
Room 1234 - 50th Street & Park Ave. New York City -



Feb. 12, 1955

The Waldorf-Astoria

Daddy Dearest,

Now I wish you felt up to a
trip with me for I get so lonely without
you. You are my only family who cares
for me at all, and gives me a reason
for living - Sometimes I wonder why I
was ever born since my thinking &
experience and reaction are so different
and seem to keep me out of touch with
a close companionship with my fellow-man.
Yet, when I try to be one of them, I find their
way of life to be devoid of thinking &
any personality development. They seem to be
governed by instinct & are enslaved by
group action which is also instinctual. They

3 Developing within myself an inner peace & contentment of spirit - seeking for those opportunities to be of service to my fellow men in need, controlling my emotions by channeling them into constructive channels of energy & taking joy in the things at hand - the privileges of life, so to speak - & above all cultivating the patience of waiting cheerfully & calmly for fruition of the growth of the spirit - Daddy, darling, you have given me a blessed & cherished opportunity to be of service & comfort to you & for I truly realize how grueling your period of adjustment has been - Help me to grow more tenderly & spiritually aware of your needs, dear heart, and take me into your confidence - I have made many mistakes in my understanding of you - your strengths & weaknesses, and many times have acted impulsively, but be patient & confident, dearest, & your devotion & faith in me will stimulate me to doing what you most need in me & stimulate you to what I most need in you -

I had a restful trip here & my cold is much better - Went to the "Met" Thursday eve. to see Strauss' "Arabella". Heba was magnificent as

seem afraid to be individual with minds of their own - A few may realize their automated existence but are too feeble to do anything about it, other than passing complaints - As for the masses, everything they do is governed by a blind obedience to institutionalism. The powers that shape our destiny see to it that we are kept in this hypnotic trance, so that when we awaken one day to a realization that our country has gone socialist or communist, it is too late to take a concerted action without serious consequences to our existence - as living entities in a world that is all too aware of the evils of dictatorships - For this reason I cannot be a "joiner" of any social, educational or religious institutions, even tho' it would make me "one of the gang", for my whole life craves for freedom of thought & expression, so long as I do it without harm to others - Consequently, with this choice backed by my honest conviction that I am doing right by all that is holy & living in me - I must continue perforce to stand alone - Facing loneliness calmly as the necessary sacrifice &

R. D. MUSSER
LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

February 19, 1955

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Room 1234
The Waldorf-Astoria
New York, New York

Dearest Lotsie:

I have tried several times to get you by 'phone but I probably have been confused by the difference in time and just have missed you when the call went in.

I received your Valentine, a heart full of candies, and I appreciate it very much. I should have sent Valentines to you but I didn't send any, as I stated to you over the 'phone that the only ones I remembered was the children in Pittsburgh, which you usually have done.

I had a very nice letter from Miss Mavis and she wrote me very affectionately by calling herself "My New York Gal," etc. She said that she had a nice dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria with you and including June and Billy and herself. She likes to have jokes with me and I consider her very good company.

Things are going on about the same. Pauline's sister's (Gertrude) husband passed away a few days ago and he is to be buried here. I sent Pauline a Spiritual Bouquet from you and myself.

I wish I knew just a good time to call you, when you would be there, but I will keep trying.

Devotedly,

Father

RDM*S

The last letter written you was mislaid, which accounts for the delay. Hope you are having a fine time. I.S.

March 8, 1955

LINDEN HILL
LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

Dear Gordon; [ROSENMEIER]

Thank you so much for your letter. I am happy to hear that you have taken care of those points I mentioned. I am still getting over the "flu," and am taking vitamin shots to build up my resistance - I still have a bad cough. But so do most other New Yorkers for the weather has been terrifically changeable -

I have been worrying again about Al's reaction to the repair work. It has been an expensive undertaking but did let the Quail house get into such a bad state of affairs that it naturally is a considerable expense to repair. So he has been grumpy - telling me that the workmen are getting such huge payments for their labor that they will see to it that they never finish. I had Edgar get Allen Meyer to call me, and told him to prepare a statement of repairs & work that was done - with an itemized account of what each man was getting for his work from

September on, and submit it to you - Also
told Ed. to mention any additional repair
work that may have to be done on the White
House. Both Dad & I have made payments
on the work done at the green house - but the
additional bills charged to me for much such
such as additional lumber & hardware etc. is too
much for my personal account which is allotted
me four times a year normally by the trustees
of the First National Bank in Minneapolis -
Now I suggest that if Dad wishes the estate
to be kept up, and improvements & repairs will
have to be considered - the estate should pay
for the work! Dad has done nothing but
pass ad me for the expense entailed - even tho'
I have done the majority out of my personal acct.
and I can't take his fussing & complaints any
more alone - I've been the scapegoat too long, &
the worry & abuse I've gotten from my relatives
& Dad has begun to reflect my health & and
I want it stopped if Dad wishes me to continue
to look after things & to keep things up. He won't
talk over any thing with me on the business
of running the estate, only finds fault with what
I do because he can't face things with me -
I have no one to go to for comfort or encourage-

ment or understanding of my problems, and
I am on the verge of a collapse!

Now, if dad continues in this fashion,
you can find some one to take my place
at home, & I'll give up my share &
interest in my home, and make a life
for myself somewhere else - With the
pressure of the attitudes of hostility on
the part of the Church & others in regard
to my work with the children, and the
lack of social friendliness on the part of
the people in Little Falls - save for isolated
& few instances of friendliness, I am driven
to find comfort alone. I need from others an
attitude of understanding, trust, & some affection
& interest. I can't do all giving & receive nothing
in return - If the citizens of Little Falls
wish me back among them, let them notify me
personally, & show in some way that they
welcome me among them - If you have
any reason to doubt the seriousness of the
situation I am facing, I can have my
Doctor here get in touch with you - I
have done all possibly I can do!

Sincerely, Laura Jane Musser

March 16, 1955

Daddy dearest;

How wonderful to get your hand written two page letter - Oh daddy, how I loved it! I brought a lump to my throat for it made me think of old times & the way you used to write to me while I was at boarding school! How I treasure those letters! I know hand writing letters are a real job, and that made me appreciate it all the more! Then you call this morning, and your concern over me made me feel like a little girl with your arms around me giving me a sense of protection & security - It is so long since I have had such warmth of affection that it was one of the factors that will keep me well and able to look after you, & try to show my appreciation for your wonderful love and care for so many years - Warm love, & a feeling of calm about you makes me feel able to go on & face whatever life offers - Oh daddy dear, love you so, & I do so want you to feel that in me you have a most loving daughter & companion anxious for

your welfare and happiness, & in turn so
in need of your love, belief, & confidence -
I am so glad you are well, & did not catch
the "flu" - for it was so hard to get rid of,
and I was so sick for so long!

I had such nice visits with Margaret
& Ruth Saturday - I spent last Friday & Sat.
with Margaret & Sunday & Monday with Ruth -
The weather was balmy & several young flowers
were already up - New England is so beautiful
in the spring - Margaret & I took a three mile
hike around the Wollusky Lake, & the
spring air helped me so much, I know!
At Ruth's we took several drives around the
suburbs of Boston & Cambridge. I returned to
New York Monday night - It's been pouring again
here for two days now - Such weather -

Will be ever so happy to be with you again,
for I have missed you so - I do hope we can
take a little trip some where this summer if
you are up to it - It's not good to sit at that cold
table so long - Your lungs need fresh air, & a
change of scenery would be good for you -
Will see you, Thursday noon, dear!

With so much love & so many
thanks for your wonderful letter -

- Love Jane -
(week !!!)

March 19, 1955

LINDEN HILL
LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

Daddy dearest;

Thank you so much for your letter which came this morning - I am so glad you really & truly do miss me, for sometimes when I'm at home, because, as you know, we don't wrap and play cards mostly, I feel as if you have a life apart from me, and that I don't fit in, and that I am just so much extra baggage - From your dear letters to me, I feel as if you really love me & want me with you, and this is the most wonderful thing I could ever have from you - you love, and the feeling that you need and want me!

I am getting home by train this day noon, and won't be glad to be with my darling precious daddy again - You won't we have fun with the Perry Mason stories?

New York City had a visit from old man winter - yesterday - a 2 1/2 inch snow storm, but it didn't stick, & the sun is shining as brightly & innocently as if nothing had happened - Yesterday afternoon I paid a visit

to your friend, Mr. Rich of the Dryden Trust Co.
He is such a fine person & I feel so fortunate
in knowing him - You'll probably be hearing
from him soon!

I had dinner with Mac & Mavis last
Thursday, and took her after to see "The Boy
Friend" at the Theater - It was a screamingly
funny take-off on the 1920's.

I am all over my "flu", & feeling fine
Thank goodness!

I can't wait to see you, darling -

With all my love,

Your most devoted nurse Jane -
It has been a long time since I've been home!



CAN'T WAIT TO GET YOUR LETTER IN LOS ANGELES. SO WHEN LOVE, YELLOWSTONE—

THE CELEBRATED OLD FAITHFUL GEYSER
NAMED FOR ITS REGULARITY OF ERUPTION
INTERVALS IN 1870 BY GENERAL

HENRY D. WASHBURN
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

DARLING;

I MISS YOU SO, AND WISH, OH, HOW I
WISH I COULD HAVE HAD YOUR
WONDERFUL COMPANY ON THIS TRIP!
MAYBE, ONE DAY YOU'LL REALLY WANT
TO TAKE ME SOMEWHERE. YELLOWSTONE
HAS BEEN A BIG THRILL TO PAT + ME!
WE TOOK A HIKE YESTERDAY AROUND
OLD FAITHFUL VIEWING SOME OF THE
GEYSERS. ONE OF THEM, PLUME GEYSER,
GAVE US A SHOWER BATH DURING ITS
ERUPTION. TODAY WE DROVE OVER TO THE
CANYON HOTEL. WE SAW ENROUTE YELLOWSTONE
LAKE + THE GREAT FALLS, ALSO SEVERAL TAME
BEARS. IT RAINED MOST OF THE TIME TODAY +

POST OFFICE

Mr. R. D. Musser

WINDEN HILL

LITTLE FALLS

MINNESOTA

AIR
MAIL



REPRODUCTION FROM KODACHROME ORIGINAL

R. D. MUSSER

LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

August 23, 1955

Miss Laura Jane Musser
c/o The Davenport Hotel
Spokane, Washington

My Dear Lotsie:

It was so nice to talk with you over the 'phone. I was glad to get your statement that the next time I wrote you, it would be in care of the Davenport Hotel.

I had not learned that you made your plans to visit Mary and the latest that I have heard that you haven't been to Atherton for a visit with her and the family. Sam is still at a Camp and [✱] Roger is taking care of him, so it would be too bad if the children are going to be separated, as it may be.

We are all quite excited about little Timmie, for he appeared to be upset about something and Dr. Morrow said that he had some trouble with his teeth and with what he had been eating. So we have cut out everything and he is not to have anything to eat but what the doctor has prescribed. No sweets or things that would upset him.

Pauline, Olga and Marjorie are getting along the same old way. Life is going on in its routine way.

Your friends wonder when you are coming home and they seem glad that you are having a nice trip with such a nice companion as Marie's and Stanley's daughter evidently is with you.

The same amount of work is going on at the Green House and the filling up of the lower garden near our garage as was going on when you were here.

From reports of the great damage that was done to Waterbury, it may be that some of the places that you have been, have been badly damaged.

When you come home you will have much to tell us about your trip and I am glad that you can get around as well as you do.

We all join in sending our love and best wishes and hope you are well and having the grand time that we wanted you to have.

With much love.

[✱] Rogers Mary King
Divorced, July 1955

RDM*S

Devotedly,

Your Daddys

Hi, Laura Jane! Glad that you are having such a wonderful trip.

Isabelle.

He Miss You

R. D. MUSSER

LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

November 10, 1955

Miss Laura Jane Musser
c/o The Barclay Hotel
New York, N. Y.

Dearest Lotsie:

I was glad to have a visit with you over the 'phone and to learn that you had arrived in New York safely and had accommodations at The Barclay.

You probably got, over the 'phone, from Pauline, Edgar and myself just how things are going along here. We have at last got the yard cleaned up and we hope that the men will soon be through at the Green House. It certainly has been a long time since they have been there, but I think that you can depend on Marcel LaFond to clean up everything satisfactorily. Things have been going on as usual at the home and of course there isn't much for me to do there.

I had a letter from Cousin Cliff in which he told about some of the good times we used to have together as children, and I was amazed that he had such a marvelous memory to recall so many events. We used to live within three doors of where Cousin Cliff and his Mother and Father lived.

I expected George Schaust to come up and spend the morning with me on his way to Brainerd, but we have no intentions of going to Cross Lake or doing much any place else.

We are going to have a real cold spell tomorrow, although today is nice.

It won't be long before you will return and we will be looking for you and anxious to learn what kind of a time you had with your friends in New York and with Margaret and others you are planning on seeing.

I am looking forward to receiving a letter from you. I enjoyed reading your post card very much.

With much love,

Devotedly,

Your Daddy

RDM*S

Neenah
CHIEFTAIN BOND
50% RAG CONTENT
MADE IN U.S.A.

Nov. 12, 1955

Hi Daddy;

Thank you so much for your letter which came today - I was so wonderful to hear from you - I am glad that I did that visit with you, too, over the 'phone, and know that you are O. K. - even tho' you've had some trouble with your eyes - Take care of them, dear, for you don't want to lose that good sight of yours - Rest your eyes a lot & bathe them with warm water when they feel itchy or sticky -

Saw Helma, today, for a grand visit. She's moved, & now is living at the hotel Ausonia in a much better neighborhood! She has more room, too!

I'm going to a play, tonight, - "Anne Frank" - the pathetic story of a Jewish girl refugee from the Nazis who eventually falls into the hands of the Gestapo & murdered in a Concentration Camp. Next week, I'm taking Helma to

"Pajama game" - They say it's very clever -
I'll be home a week from Tuesday -
Please write me soon - I miss you so -
With much love,
Laura Jane -

R. D. MUSSER

LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

November 15, 1955

Miss Laura Jane Musser
c/o The Barclay
New York, N. Y.

Dearest Laura Jane:

It was so nice to get your letter with good wishes for my birthday anniversary. You always think of me on this occasion and I appreciate all the good things you say and the remembrances that come from you.

I received quite a number of gifts of flowers and have enough cigars to last me for a long time. I had a birthday greetings from Cousin Cliff, and Helen and John and many others.

I haven't had time to read the books that came, but I was very glad to get them. You state that you are going to leave a week from Tuesday so that you will be here very soon and I am anxious to get this letter to you before you leave.

I don't want to forget the nice cake that I received from Miss Simon, but she tells me that she didn't make it and I would really like to have a sample of her cooking, especially on my birthday.

We have had a snowstorm of about four or five inches and our winter is here to stay.

My friends came in for an evening of cards and that helped break the time that of course is long when you see very few people.

I am hoping to hear from you again before you leave, and we will be at the station to meet you when you return.

You state that you are seeing some nice plays and that is always interesting for you, and particularly that you have had a nice visit with Thelma and June and Billie. I expect you will see Margaret, if it is convenient.

Thanking you ever so much for your fine letter, I am with all my love and devotion

Your

Daddy

RDM*S