



Laura Jane Musser and
family papers.

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MRS. LESLIE B. AVRIT

P. O. BOX 1257

JUNEAU, ALASKA

Aug. 24

Dearest Lottie,

It was good to hear from you and I'm sorry so many of my thoughts are not transmitted on paper - but they do fly your way often.

Getting back into the routine has not been easy - My mind so often is elsewhere - and it's been an exceptionally busy time at the office - I've hardly caught my breath really and have been working Saturdays as well - so that I'm far behind on my personal affairs - Anyhow you do know, I'm sure, that I'm thinking of you and wondering about your plans and hoping that

The adjustment is not too difficult. I am so happy we were there this summer.

I haven't heard from the family since they embarked but hope the trip is as pleasant as anticipated - I imagine Jim, Lynn & Jane are headed back about now. They aren't letter writers either!

The election on Tues. for Statehood is uppermost here now. By the way, did I tell you I had a note from Chas. Winters who came to Geneva earlier than expected, before I returned. He didn't have much luck - too late in the year to change commitments, particularly as Mr. Shapiro died at about that time -

Much Love,

Sally.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Birden Hall
Little Falls, Minn.

MRS. LESLIE B. AVRIT

P. O. BOX 1257

JUNEAU, ALASKA

MRS. LESLIE B. AVRIT

P. O. BOX 1257

JUNEAU, ALASKA

Nov. 25

Dearest Hottie -

Quite often I think of
you & wonder how it's
going - and regret I'm not
more of a correspondent.
At that I'm better than
some people ?? Do hope
y'r. trip this fall was a
pleasant one - I've stayed
out since my Sept. Oct.
trip & probably will be
here until Jan. - I'm
hoping Dad will come
up in Jan, too, though
I have my doubts. Winter
does not lure him. He
will arrive in N. Y.

Dec. 10 & stay over
Christmas with Aunt Mary -

sailing from Naples.

This is a Big day in
Alaska & I'm about to
vote for Senators & a
Rep. for the first time
since 1945. There's been
a great deal of politicking
& I'm glad it's over.

Much Love,
Sally.



FIGHT TB
SUPPORT FUND
TB ASSOCIATION



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Pinder Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

MRS. LESLIE B. AVRIT

P. O. BOX 1257

JUNEAU, ALASKA

5108 Munnetonhald.

Mpls 16, Minn.

Aug 3, 1958.

Miss Laura Jean Muesen -
Little Falls, Minn.

Dear Miss Muesen.

I hesitate to
disturb you so soon after your
bereavement, but feel I must report
to you.

I sold the Forten
family - The Pearson family got
a set from a family who are
moving away. Sam I couldn't
see for one reason or another - Either
away or didn't have time but will
try sometime this fall.

2.

At which time I would like to
call on you again.

My office has sent you a
check for 5⁰⁰ which is a further
discount on your own library. And
for the Forties sale I sent you
Volume 8 of the Beginner set.
Please examine it - if you don't like
it I will make different arrangements
when I come up.

Thank you again for your kindness
and also ^{for} the privilege of ~~see~~ viewing
your lovely home.

Sincerely yours

AE Cottenham

A E Coughtonham
51st Mthk Blvd
Mpls 16, Minn



USE ZONE NO.
FOR BETTER
MAIL SERVICE



Miss Laura Jean Musser
Linden Hills
Little Falls, Minn.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill,
Little Falls,
Minnesota

Miss Judith Bestul

1507 32nd St. W.

Bradenton, Flo.

19



58



MANATEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

The Class of
Nineteen hundred fifty-eight
Manatee County High School
announces its
Commencement Exercises
Thursday evening, May twenty-ninth
eight o'clock
Manatee County High School
Bradenton, Florida

Dear Laura Jane:

Neil & I wish to Thank
you very much indeed for
your generous gift in
memory of Dorothy - I sent
your sweet note and the
check to Dorothy Jean Engdahl
(the eldest daughter) and I
know it will be very
much appreciated - You
do so many things for
us I shall have to start
sewing for you again!!
Very much love - Grace



Miss. Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hills
Little Falls
Minn



MRS. N. D. WOODWORTH
Riverview
LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

January, 1959

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO YOU FOR 1959!

Aside from the busyness of the well-known pre-Christmas rush that confronts any teacher or church musician, the Westenburgs thought it might be novel and interesting to send New Year's greetings this year instead of the conventional Christmas cards.

Much has happened in 1958 to make our lives exciting. A year ago at this time we were in the middle of a nine-month stay in a truly model home, which we rented from a colleague who was away for advanced study. This ultra-modern home was complete with sliding doors, pine panels, and Steinway grand piano! More than the usual joy of living came to Westy in the spring months as he had the pleasure of traveling from Missoula to Idaho, Washington, North Dakota, and out-state Montana to present about ten organ recitals. Meanwhile, Elin was at home taking care of our "first child" -- an apricot-colored poodle named "Pierre." We purchased this dog just before Easter, when he was only five weeks old. Now, after his early months of being both companionable and destructive, he has grown to the rather formidable full-sized growth of sixty-five pounds!

Our summer was a dream come true! Westy enjoyed a light teaching load at the University of Minnesota, handling about ten organ students, and played the organ and directed the choir at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis. We lived for the ten weeks on West Arm of Lake Minnetonka where Elin enjoyed a much-needed rest and where we both had more than ample time to enjoy each other and the activities of water-skiing, tennis, swimming, etc.

On our way back to Missoula during the last week in August we took an extended trip through the South Dakota Badlands, the Black Hills, and Yellowstone Park. We arrived in time for Elin to begin her second year of teaching fourth grade at Hawthorne School, and for Westy to return to his work at Missoula's Presbyterian Church. By the first of October Westy's work at the University was in full swing and since that time our lives have been busier than ever. At times this extremely heavy schedule of two time-consuming jobs apiece (Elin with her teaching and keeping house, and Westy with his University and church work) seems hectic and too tiring to continue, but most of the time it is pleasant and even exhilarating, for our time is spent in things we love.

Christmas in 1958 was, as usual, a high point of the year. The music we were able to hear and produce renewed us considerably. And of course on December 25 we had the gifts and the food; but this year we were further blest by a visit from Elin's parents of Des Moines.

As we look back upon the events in 1958 we are happy. We have both come to know increasing joys in our teaching; and we have both been thrilled many times by the cooperation and fine spirit we have known from the choir and congregation at the church; and, above all, we have experienced untold joys in our first complete year together. Now we are looking forward to 1959, which we are confident will be even more exciting than 1958; and we sincerely wish the same for you and yours.

*Sincerely,
Elin and Dick Westenburg*

P. S.

Thank you so much for your lovely Christmas letter. We will stop and see you if we ever get the chance to.

RICHARD WESTENBURG
RT 4
MISSOULA MONT



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

Air Mail



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Hinden Hills
Little Falls
Minnesota

Ma Mavis 5 Tudor City Place
New York, 17, N.Y.

Dear haura-jane -

In all your sorrow
and busy days - you were
sweet to take time out
and drop me a note -

I wish I could
have been there to help
you - with some of the
details involved at
such a time.

Having been thru
it, twice - by my self - I
know what it entails -

I trust by now -
you are able to get your
head up a little and
the idea of a motor
trip - sounds exactly

What you need at this point - just get away to new surroundings - forget all - and when you will finally get back - it won't be so difficult to face new issues, which are bound to arrive.

Just meeting your Dad - once - always seemed as if I had known him for ever - Too bad I did not get to see him and know him better - as I am sure, he must have been a great man.

I had planned so many
times to pay a visit to
my very good friend
Elinor Pelley in Minn -
but something always
happens to postpone it -
Hope to make it
some day - my dear.

I had dinner with
Gene and Billy last night -
Gene was away almost
all of last week - in
East Hampton - she looks
fine - but was a little
tired after a hectic social
week -

Am getting all set
for a good fall season

in furs, That is - Am going
on my tour starting Oct 13 -
covering all of our out of
Tawn stores.

Are you needing a
new fur? dear? hope & Taylor
remember -

Upon your next trip
to N.Y. do let me know -
where you will be staying -
I always hear about you
after you leave - we are
have dinner together -
and a nice ol fat chat -

Bless you, my dear -
and Take care - Fondly
Mae
Tuesday

Nov. 14, 1958

Dear Laura Jane,

You are, without a doubt, the most thoughtful of friends, and much too generous.

I must admit, though, that I was delighted with the beautiful basket of Russell Store goodies you sent me. It looked so attractive, it almost seems a shame to break the Cellophane, but the candy is even more delicious than it looks. Thank you so much!

I hope you had a pleasant trip home and

that you can arrange to
stay longer next time
you come to New York.

Meanwhile, keep that
wonderful glow of good
health.

Love

Claire

Thank
You!

VIA AIR MAIL



Mrs Laura Jane Mussen
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.



PROUDLY!

Miss Laura Jane Musier
Little Falls
Minnesota

Mrs R. Dharabie

115 Fourth St

Deer Lodge

Montana

and was thrilled by his performance -
I notice he is to play here next Feb - I believe
it is - I remember how little Philips Schuyler
pursued her music - You told me about her
great talent long ago -

I have the pleasantest memories of your
being one of my Parmassus girls, and
often think of you and many of the
girls - It seems like another lifetime
now - I remember your charming
work on her visits to you -
I would be so happy to hear from you sometime

With fond remembrance

Sincerely yours

Maikel B. Laramie

Mrs. R. D. Laramie
115 Fourth St
Deer Lodge
Montana

October 21-1958
Minneapolis

Dear Laura Jane -

A voice from the
park! I have been in Rochester for
surgery and am sojourning for a
few days with my cousin here. Before
going home to Montana on Friday -
Earlier in the summer my cousin
sent me newspaper clippings about Van
Cliburn's recital in Little Falls - There
were pictures of you with him at a

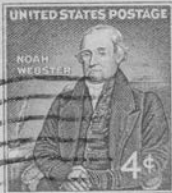
birthday party for him at your home. etc.
all most interesting to me — and to know
you had him in Little Falls in recital
in 1955 (?) Made me very glad you had
been his patrons before the Russians
thought they had discovered him!!

Later she sent me a clipping about your
father's death and my heart went out to
you in unexpressed sympathy —
Even after a long, well lived life and
infirmities befall our loved ones, we are
never ready to give them up —

I know you miss him greatly —
I am glad you have your music with
all the delightful satisfaction it
has always given you —
I wonder do you go to New York any
more — I left there six years ago —

Retired and went home to Deer Lodge where
I live with my sister in our old home —
No doubt you know Miss Mc Millan
closed the club
and sold the building to Columbia
So Parsonage is no more —

Miss Mc Millan makes her home in N.Y.
My sister who lives in Cambridge Mass. heard
New Orleans with the Boston Symphony recently



Mr. Laura Jane W. Jones
Linden Hill
Little Falls, N.Y.

8717 Clarinda Ave
Livera, Calif.



雪弟



by Ling-Fu Yang
CALHART ARTS, S. F., CAL., U. S. A.

Oct. 20, 1958

Dearest Laura Jane,

Had you stayed a day longer, you would have experienced pleasant fall weather which would have been such a relief from what you had gone through.

However this is just a note to thank you for the lovely "thought" or was it that bit of "shopping" you did at Lake? Thanks ever so much, dear, I know I'll be using it to the last drop.

Take care & yourself.

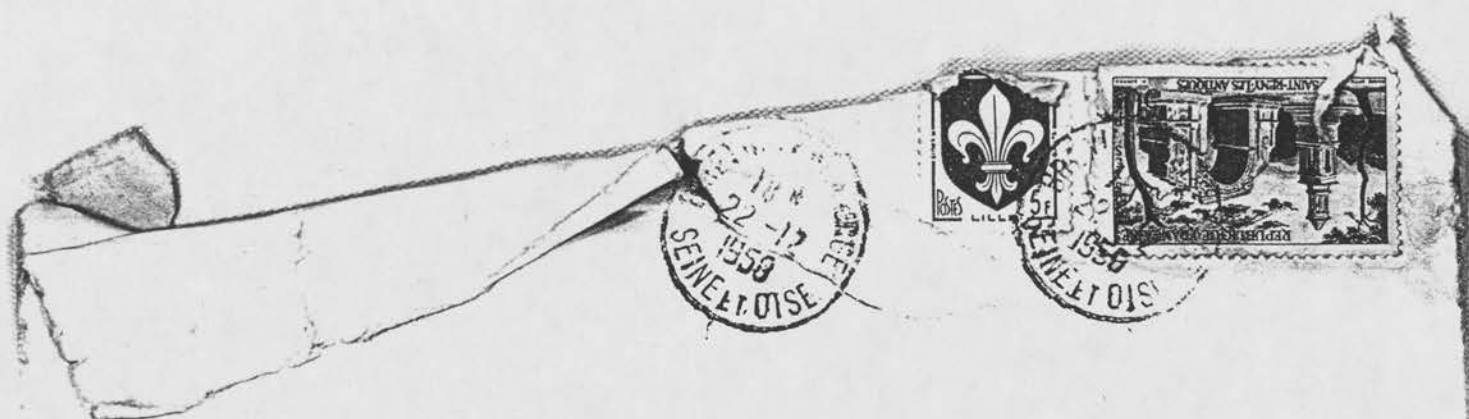
Love
Mother

je souhaite
une meilleure
année pour
1953 avec
toutes mes
amitiés le vous
embrasse
Affectueux

Grégoire 22 Xbre 58

Chère Annie

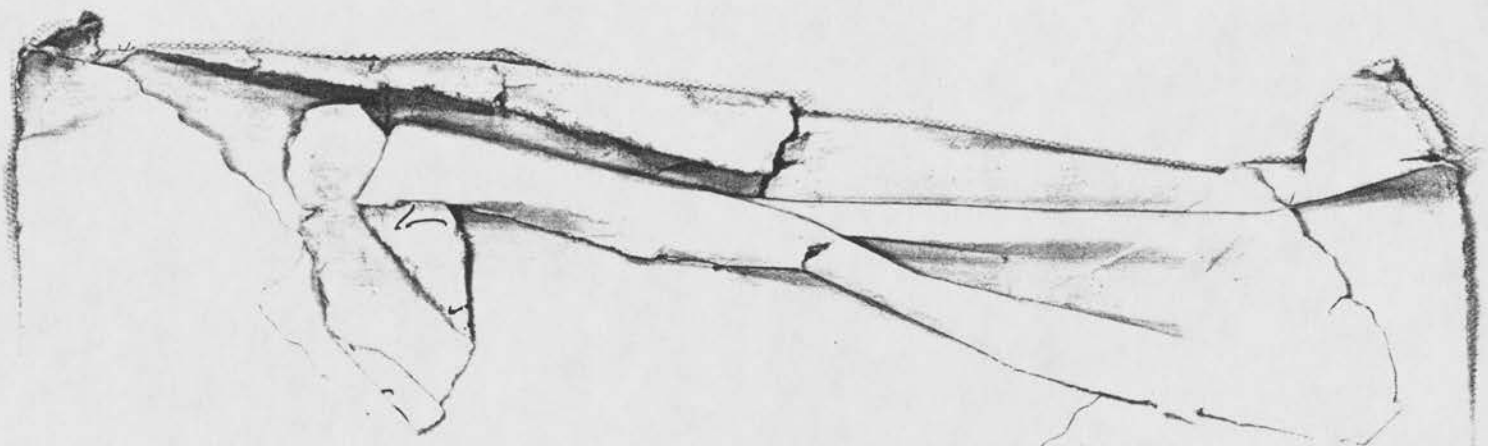
C'est avec une grande joie que j'ai reçu
votre jolie gravure de Christmas mais j'ai eu le cœur
triste à la pensée que vous avez perdu votre cher Papa
Je sais, par expérience, combien dure est cette épreuve
lorsque nos chers parents nous quittent.
Je n'oublie pas les bons moments de votre rencontre à Nice
lorsque en 1952 nous avons parcouru les rues de Nice en
calèche. Je souhaiterais vous revoir à Quimetota d'au-
plus que j'ai maintenant une Cousine qui vient de partir
à New York pour épouser un Américain qui a une usine
Je vois que vous avez beaucoup d'occupation avec la musique
qui est un bon divertissement -
ma chère Annie - J. Hottel



Madame P. J. Mutter
Linden Hill

Little Falls

Minnesota
U.S.A.



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Tél. Arpajon 544 S.C. Corbell 25.243

Missoula's Symphony Orchestra Gains Experienced Players

By JOHN A. FORSSEN

Musicians with a wealth of experience have joined the Missoula Civic Symphony Orchestra for its 1958-59 season, and rehearsals indicate that western Montana has a real musical treat in store in the three concerts scheduled.

Prof. Eugene Andrie, who has driven the orchestra to goals just beyond it since the days when it

was composed almost entirely of players of little experience, is continuing this philosophy.

This season he no longer need be as concerned with the mechanics of the playing, and he has turned his attention to the production of a fine sound.

With 70 members, all sections of the orchestra are full except the cellos, where three more players are needed. If necessary, Prof. Andrie will borrow cellists from the Spokane Symphony Orchestra to provide complete balance. Incidentally, the Spokane Symphony may also borrow some players from the Missoula orchestra this season.

Among the new players in the Missoula orchestra are Gerald Doty, visiting professor in the University Music School and president of the American String Teachers Assn.; Dr. Lloyd Oakland, professor of music, director of the Mendelssohn Club and a noted music educator, and George F. Phillips of Hamilton, former trombonist in the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

These and the other excellent musicians form an instrument capable of interpreting almost any orchestral work, an orchestra highly unusual in a city the size of Missoula.

The Garden City is blessed with a largess of cultural events, in music, drama and the arts, and the citizens support them.

The concerts will provide a varied and exciting program, beginning with the first presentation Dec. 7, featuring Sylvia Eversole, pianist, in the brilliant and popular Rachmaninoff rhapsody, "Variations on a Theme by Paganini." Nicolo Paganini, the greatest master of the violin, was also a composer, principally of brilliant virtuosos music.

Mrs. Eversole, who has appeared as soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony, handles the work with finesse.

The March 1 concert will feature as soloist Jeanne Couture Kostelic, soprano, in a selection of opera and light opera songs. Mrs. Kostelic, a graduate of the State University School of Music and pupil of Prof. John Lester for several years, is now associated with the Denver Civic Opera as a leading singer and has received acclaim for a recent appearance with the Denver Symphony under Saul Caston.

The May 3 concert will be one of the most novel and colorful programs ever presented to a Missoula audience, with all the music derived from folk sources. Much of it will be American, but there will be a sequence of music from European music.

Featured on the program will be Miss Judith Blegen, soprano; the Montana Royaleers, folk dancers, directed by Miss Agnes Stoodley, and a Missoula public school chorus of 100 voices under the direction of James Cole. Another feature will be a new suite by George Frederick McKay composed from authentic American Indian music and music from Sweden, Poland, Romania, Russia and other countries.

With this outstanding musical fare on the stove, supporters of the symphony are undertaking a campaign to get the public's feet under the table.

"We feel that many in Missoula just don't know what they have in this orchestra, and we intend to try to tell them," said Mrs. Leonard Brewer, new president of the Women's Committee of the Missoula Symphony.

Her group, and other individuals, will begin Monday on a campaign to sell Missoula Civic Symphony Assn. memberships, which include season tickets to the concerts.

Symphony Group Hears Prof. Doty

The symphony orchestra was born and nurtured under the influence of the wealthy princes of Europe, but the picture in this country is entirely different, members of the Women's Committee of the Missoula Symphony were told at their meeting Friday at the Lodge on the University campus.

Gerald H. Doty, visiting professor in the State University Music School, said early orchestras in the United States struggled for existence.

He told of the efforts of Theodore Thomas, later founder of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, to sell good music to the public.

"From the period when musical enjoyment was a class privilege, we have today come to a period when music is the common heritage of all who would taste of its pleasures," Doty said.

"While many European musical groups are still state supported or subsidized, here in America we have clung to the idea that music should stand on its own feet."

Doty said that of 2,000 symphony orchestras in the world, 1,055 are in this country, compared with less than 100 in 1920. He said that in 1957, Americans continued to spend more money at the box office for concert music than they did for baseball and quoted figures showing that sales of classical music recordings now account for 35 to 40 per cent of all sales, as compared with 15 per cent in 1946.

"We are fortunate in having a growing orchestra in Missoula. The excellence of the orchestra was a real surprise a few weeks ago when I attended the first rehearsal," Doty said.

He paid tribute to the "fine orchestral programs" of Missoula County High School and the public grade schools and said the Missoula Civic Symphony "is the natural culmination of the orchestral training available in the schools."

He urged members of the women's group to become an "enthusiastic band doing their part toward

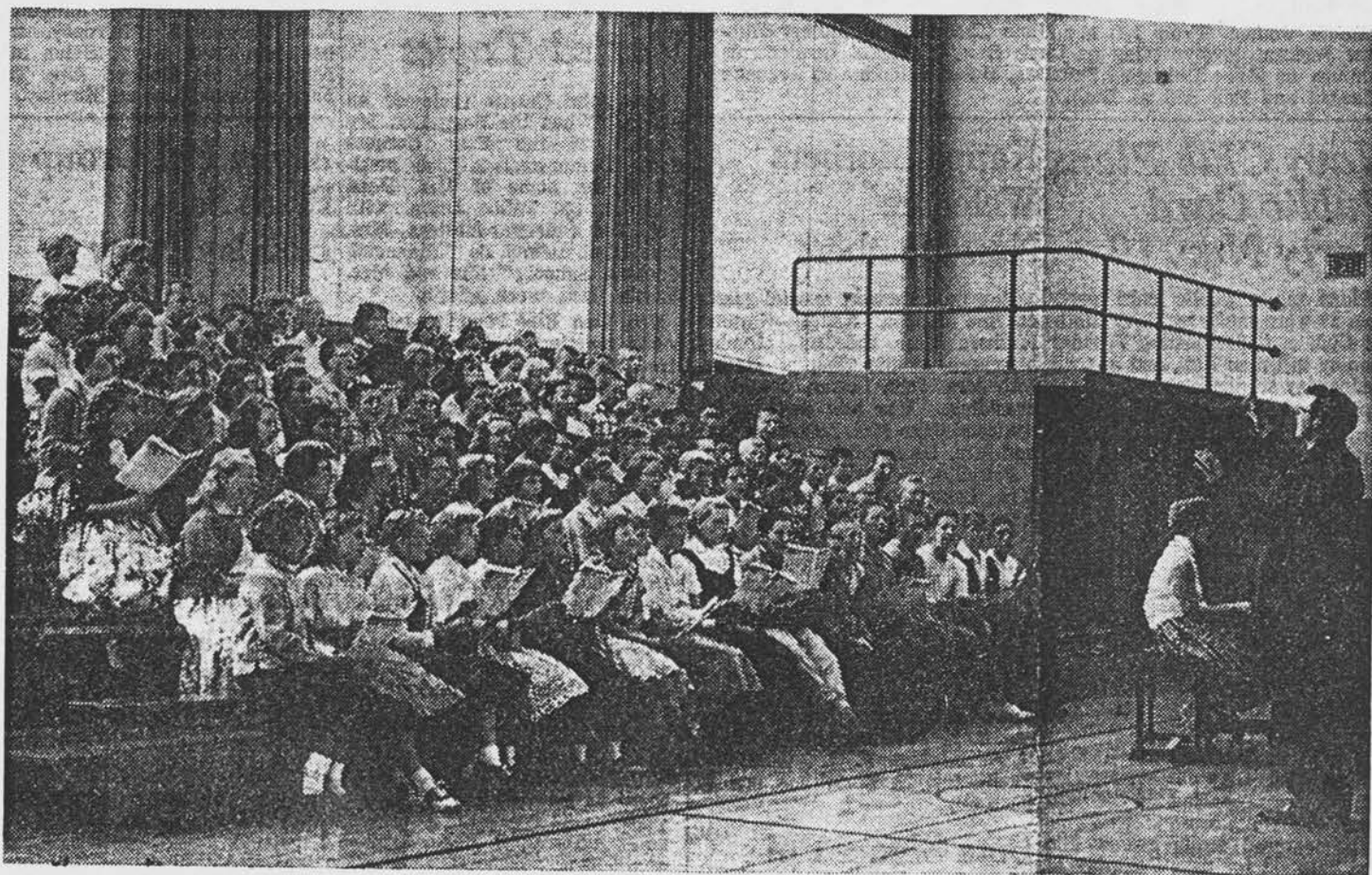
the promotion of public support" by talking about music, selling tickets, pushing for good music in the schools, encouraging their children to study and practice, attending the concerts and getting the men out to the concerts, and expressing appreciation.

The Missoula orchestra has to be a cooperative project. Missoula needs the orchestra, and the orchestra needs Missoula."

Mrs. Leonard Brewer was elected president of the group to succeed Mrs. Horace Koessler, who was named vice president. Mrs. R. H. Jesse is secretary. Mrs. Gilbert A. Porter, treasurer; Mrs. Harold A. Braun, membership chairman; Mrs. Eugene Andrie, program and publicity, and Mrs. G. D. Connell and Mrs. Roscoe Haines, hospitality.

Doty joined the Montana Quartet as violinist in playing the Mozart Quintet in D Major. Members of the quartet are Eugene Andrie, first violin; Gordon Childs, second violin; Eugene Weigel, viola, and Florence Reynolds, cello.

Members of the women's group discussed plans for raising money to provide a music scholarship. The first event will be a rummage sale Nov. 13.



A chorus of 100 public school children directed by James Cole will sing folk songs with the symphony orchestra at the May concert, scheduled to be one of the most interesting and colorful concerts ever presented in Missoula.



The Missoula Civic Symphony, grown to 70 pieces, is rehearsing for the opening of its season Dec. 7. Prof. Eugene Andrie, director since its founding, said the group has far better balance and ability this year.



A feature of the symphony orchestra's May concert will be folk music, and the Montana Royaleers, folk dancers, will be featured along with a Missoula public schools chorus of 100 voices and Miss Judith Blegen, soprano. Here the Royaleers get instructions from caller Hans Blaszek.

MISS EASY BE LOUING AVENT
MISS EASY BE LOUING AVENT

November 2, 1958

Dear Laura Jane,

Thank you so very much for the delightful Eau de Savin which arrived some days ago. It is a most acceptable gift which I shall enjoy using very much. You were very sweet to send it. Also, to remember Joan was most kind and thoughtful and she was surprised and delighted. Thank you very much.

It was so good to have a visit with you. I am sorry you did not plan to stop on your return trip, too.

Did you get in touch

with the Community Concert representative? If we had not already been late for our dinner engagement we would gladly have located him for you. Friends were waiting for us so we had to skip as soon as Paul arrived.

I am enclosing a newspaper article about our Civic Symphony which I thought might be of interest to you. You will notice that the young singer you heard when you were here, is to be the soloist on the program in which the young people participate. We are featuring our own, that is, the University and town, talent this year. Mrs. Eversoll is an accomplished pianist, the wife of one of our Music School instructors. The other soloist is a graduate of our Music

School who has gone on with her singing in Denver where she went to live after her marriage the summer she graduated.

We had a very good small opera company here last Tuesday. They put on "La Traviata" and did an excellent job. The girl who took the part of Violetta did exceptionally well.

I hope you had a pleasant journey on your return trip and hope you'll let me know about your various activities.

With love,
Helen.



VIA AIR MAIL

Miss Laura Jane Cusser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls
Minnesota

655 E. BECKWITH AVE.
MISSOULA, MONTANA

MISSOULA, MONTANA

St. Cloud Civic Music Ass'n.

A Non-Profit Cooperative Organization

R. D. Halverson (Supt. Schools, Sauk Rapids)

Edward M. Anderson, M. D., Pres.

Jerry Kiguo

George W. Mene, Treas.

Myrl Carlsen, Ex. Sec.,
c/o Teachers College

Sun - 16th of Nov.

Dear Laura Jane -

Are you back home from your trip? Know you must have had a lovely time. Have not seen you at the Artist Series thus far?

My folks (students & faculty) are already asking about the Cliburn concert - wondering if they should go to Mpls. or Little Falls to hear him. I'm sure it's quite early yet for you to have all the details worked out - It's Feb 4 isn't it? which is a recital - In Mpls - he is with the symphony? (I've just finished a letter to James Lombard asking for information there too.

Should you have ticket price information, etc, etc - I would be glad to know.

We finished our campaign for Civic & have our first concert Sat. eve - 22nd - coming up. Enclosing a card with dates - so you can see what we're having - wish you had joined with us (we do have 8 folks from Little Falls on our list) - But, you are a member at Brainerd - so, bring your card + come + hear the Mexican Boy - They're darling. Had them on their 1st tour in 1954 - this is their 3rd tour - We had a very busy fall -

Sincerely - Myrl C -

Myrl Carlson
State College
St. Cloud, Minn



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minn



June 4. 1958

A friendly note to greet you as your special day appears—

May this day be your brightest and your happiest in years

And may the days that follow surely bring your way

The many joys and pleasures you're being wished today

Phyl + Judy

Hi to Mr. Muser!

Just a few lines - first a thank
you for the book which came
on New Years Eve. I'm sure I shall
find it interesting.
We have had a wild year. After
the chaos of auction, moving, + driv-
ing 2000 miles with a huge trailer
trying to purchase replacements and
furnishings & transfer everything
really kept us busy. 3 of us had
Asian flu (I was ill for 6 weeks with it)
& Mother is under constant Dr.'s care.
One of us has to be with her at all times
her eyesight is failing, & she has a new

arthritic swelling on ribs + breast-bone
+ had para thyroid infection during
nov. dec. + jan. We expected her to
enter hospital on Xmas Day, but
she did improve, so stayed at home.
I had 3 attacks of sinusitis
caused by humidity + climatic change.

All now is a riot of color and
people flock to the beaches, now that
school is over.... Judy got superior
ratings in all college entrance + placement
exams. + some week-end we must
drive up to see about a room.
Hope our little Xmas box got to you O.K. - Love P.D.

Air Mail



U.S. TREASURY
2c
U.S. POSTAGE
FLAG CITY

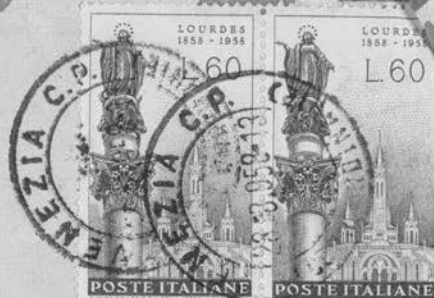
Miss Laura Jane Musser
608 Highland Ave.
Little Falls,
Minnesota

Air Mail

Robert R. Canby

111 Fitz Randolph Rd.
Princeton, N. J.

Courtesy
HOTEL LUNA
VENEZIA



Miss Laura Jane Musser -
Pineau Hills -

Little Falls -

Minnesota - U.S.A.

BY AIRMAIL
PAR AVION

HOTEL LUNA

PIAZZA S. MARCO

VENEZIA

Aug. 27, 1958.



"LUNAHOTEL"



(26151 8 LINEE)

Dearest Laura Jane -

Thank you for your nice letter. We were shocked, however, to hear of your dear father's death. You have our deepest and most understanding sympathy, my dear. Even though he had not been well or strong lately, nevertheless his actual passing is a terrible ~~ordeal~~ for you. Try to find some consolation in the knowledge that your unswerving devotion must have given him great happiness. And what a blessing that you were with him at the end - a peaceful sleep for him, with no suffering.

We have only one mother and one father - which makes the bereavement particularly difficult to bear. But, Laura Jane, you will, we know, keep a gallant spirit in those dark hours. You are in our thoughts and prayers - never doubt that. You have in us, true and loyal friends.

You have the right idea - to keep busy and do for others in your usual generous, selfless way. You do have some good cousins - so do not feel alone. Alas, we have no relatives - good or bad! Just ourselves, which is more difficult if either of us should be taken.

You have many interests and a wide sphere of influence. How happy Van must have been with all you did for him! And you are a high priestess of music in your community. Bless you, our dear Laura Jane. Always our devoted love - Dorothy and "Mother" Rowther