



Laura Jane Musser and
family papers.

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Ms. G. H. Klammer
109 - 5th St NE
Little Falls, Minn.

1050



Miss Laura Jane Pussen
Hawaii on Village Motel
Honolulu
Hawaii

109 - 8th St. N.E.
Little Falls, Minn.
April 27, 1959

Dear Laura Jane,

Mark is in bed, Harmon
is watching television,
so all is peaceful in
the Hemme household
this evening.

We are still talking
about the Symphony Ball.
we had just a wonderful
time. So wish you could
have been there with us.
We saw many interesting
clothes, latest creations
Imagine. The
Snorgsbord supper

was delicious and we
all over ate. It was
a memorable evening.
I especially enjoyed
the hour the Symphony
Orchestra played - the
music was beautiful.

We have a new
addition in our family
of pets, a Toy
Manchester puppy. He's
so tiny and cute,
Mark has named him
"Tiger".

I saw Ben last
week, talk to her over
the phone frequently.

Mark has a cold so
we haven't been over
there lately.

Thanks so much for
your nice card, your
trip sounds wonderful
and interesting. We'll
be anxious to hear
all about it and
looking forward to
seeing you in May.

Love,
Phyllis,
Hannen and
Mark





Mrs Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls,
Minnesota

MRS. WELLS GILBERT
1000 S.W. Vista Avenue
Portland 5, Oregon

4. Why you have not heard from me oftener.

Mary Justice has held up marvelously under the terrible instant death of little Frank, which was caused by a rolling boulder (300 lbs) striking him a glancing blow in the chest when he was playing on the hillside near their house. (May 2nd). He was 9 yrs old in March. The little family, Frank, M. J. and little Steve came up here for two weeks in July, & will go to San Jose for Xmas with my Sister Elizabeth Weyte's son's family where there are little children his age.

Let me hear from you sometime. May you have a Blessed Xmas tide and the New Year be filled ^{with} happy adventure. But you have a big job on your hands with the "politicians" in the music world. I know a lot about it. Love never to you. With love, Page Gilbert.



My darling Laura Jane,
I know I have been in my mind & heart many times this past year, and I had hoped you would come to see me during the year, but can survive from the press that the young pianist has needed you more than I.

The year has been very rugged for me, and the tragic death of little Frank Roddie was a terrible blow. I do not know whether I wrote you of it as Mr. Gilbert

3.

which was a miracle at his age, but like your father, he has a marvellous heart and a very strong constitution due to a very temperate life. I am fortunate to have him for another 7 years.

My apartment (flat) has saved my life this past year as the service is excellent & the staff very solicitous of me. There have been days when I wondered if I could hold out, but I sleep very soundly and always rebound by morning and cannot fail my beloved.

So you can understand

2.

was so ill at the time and at death's door for over eight weeks but miraculously recovered and entered his 90th year on August 15. He is now confined to his room completely, except occasionally being in his wheeled chair for a little stroll thru the halls, or, when weather permits, onto the terrace garden in the beautiful new building of the Good Samaritan Hospital into which we moved Nov. 2nd. He has a lovely room and the nurses seem to love him & give him wonderful care, which is the only consolation I have since he cannot be with me. The hardening of the arteries has advanced rapidly this year since he recovered from a terrible carbuncle in April

Mrs. C. F. Lucake
5306 Village Green
Los Angeles 16, Calif.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hills
Little Falls, Minn.

Dec. 30

Dearest Laura Jane:

I can't tell you what
your letter did for me!

I have never read anything
that struck me with such
force - I read it over and
over and finally listed the
ten things you say you
are thankful for and found
I could check everyone of
them off, with the possible
exception of two, and ~~that~~
were qualitative - a most
imposing list of things to
be grateful for, I would say.

Laura Jane, why don't you

write a book - you are
marvelous! This was a
little master piece! I would
like to see it in print and
it should be!

I think the two things I
am most thankful for are
my friends and my love
of and the immense thrill
I get out of a good book and,
of course, music - and, too,
my love of nature - this
little "Village" is full of birds
and blossoms at all times
a major thrill was a
pleasant so happy here in
the midst of this big, sprawl-
ing city - I feel when I go

to beautiful, quiet, blessed
forest. Larva closer to com-
munion with the universe
than anywhere else on
earth and especially if I am
alone and let the beauty
around me - the soft music
playing at all times, and
the quietness enter into my
deery soul -

I want to thank you
again for writing me
just as you did - you are
wonderful! Bless you,
my dear. All my love
Nell



11/19/59

Dear Miss Musser,

Hope my letter finds all well with you and also hope you don't mind my writing you. The reason I'm writing is that sometime next spring or summer, I plan to visit Little Falls and see Lindberg's Birth place. I would also like to see your home as I have never seen a Mansion before. I know this isn't the right way to go about it, but is the only way I could think of, hope you'll forgive me.

Will now tell you a little about myself, name is Bobby Potter, 33 years of age, 5 ft. 10 inches in height, weigh 180 lbs. and have Black hair & Brown eyes. I am an American Indian and belong to the Sioux tribe, also have a little a little French and English blood too. Will close for now.

Sincerely,

Bobby Potter

My Address:

Bobby Potter

Box 471

PIERRE, South DAKOTA

December 11, 1959

Dear Laura Jane

Please, excuse this belated thank you note. Ever since you gave me that envelope of tickets, I have been thinking of how generous you have been to us. We have indeed appreciated and enjoyed those concerts we heard and the ones we couldn't attend well I'll tell you where those tickets went:

My music teacher, who was going to give a dual piano recital herself went to the dual pianists symphony - Cal went to the artist course and some friends of ours, Woodliffs by name went to the "all American program"

Peter and I really enjoyed
the symphonies we went to
Marubun and Pannario

Thank you very much,
Lotsie, from all of us!

Did you have a good trip?
It seems as tho you saw
quite a bit of the country
south and east on your
long jaunt.

The picture of you and the
article about you in the
paper were so good and
interesting.

Mother has been very
sick this past month
and a half and has
landed in the hospital.

We go to town to see her
every day and have great
hopes she will be better
by Christmas.

Many thanks again for
all those wonderful tickets
and if I don't see you
or talk to you before.
Have a very Merry Christmas.

Love from,
Mike.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Mrs. P. F. Walslad
Box 300
Rt. 3
Excelsior
Minn.



Miss Laura J. Musser
608 Highland
Little Falls, Minn.

Colfax, Wisconsin
Nov. 11, 1959

Dear Miss Musser:

I have been thinking - how shall I write this letter to someone I have never seen, met - never formally ^{personally} introduced to. In taking this liberty I wish to state that it is being taken in a Christian spirit, and I trust that you will kindly receive it in the same spirit. So allow me to introduce myself as John A.W. Magnusson, a Christian layman who loves the Lord. All are sisters and brothers in the Lord, and as I love people, love meeting them, perhaps it is because I am interested in helping others find the Lord.

Having thus informally introduced myself I wish to greet you in the name of the Lord.

When I read that George Grim was to interview certain persons in Little Falls, I made note of the fact as I am always interested in what Grim writes. I met him and heard him speak last Spring when as a guest I attended the Senior Banquet at the Fridley High School. Then when I did read about you I felt a call to write you. An impression was made on me where you related that your schooling began with religion, and that you had learned so many chapters of the Bible. There are many few persons left who in an interview will claim any connection with God's word. Also I was impressed with those facts and concluded that your mother and father had respect for God's word and used it in their lives. Such memories are blessed aren't they? Then, too, you gave emphasis to that fine collection of religious commentaries, and the scriptures.

showing love and respect for God's word. May the Lord bless you.

Your mention of music as your life's study, interest, and work, interested me. The piano is my favorite musical instrument. I play a little for my own enjoyment, but use it mostly as a help in trying out numbers used in my Church Choir directing, and solo singing. So it must be much joy to you in teaching others to play the piano. It is indeed a wonderful pleasure to appreciate music, and I too love music. Reading about you and your piano students revived nice memories of the times I took piano lessons.

For many years I was engaged in laboratory research work with a large Pulp Paper Concern in New Hampshire, near the White Mountains. I was born & raised in New Hampshire. I have spent much time in Vermont also. Writing this makes me long to visit New England soon. I left there about 7 years ago to come out here to help my sister as her husband was dying from cancer. After his death I became affiliated with the World Mission Prayer League of Minneapolis (Lutheran Faith Mission - 100 Missionaries), and served several terms on their Mission board. I became very interested in the mission cause, and tried to further that cause through speaking engagements. So I have travelled much in this country. Now I have an urge to visit some of the foreign countries sometime, especially Sweden where I have relatives whom I have never met.

Lately I have felt a leading of the Lord to engage in visitation work amongst shut-ins, and invalids in general, both in home and hospitals, bringing them cheer through God's word. I have been doing this for many years in spare time but feel led of the Lord to do more of it. The more I engage in this type of service the more I see the necessity for a "back to New Testament Christianity," namely following the practice of Christ, Paul, Peter in going to the people for their needs.

as against the Modern trend of expecting the people to come to the Churches. This trend has resulted in a form of Churchianity for many and many Church members have lost the significance and joy of engaging personally in Christ's great Commission as found in Matt. 28: 18-20. As Dr. Oswald Smith has so aptly stated "Nobody should hear the Gospel twice until everybody has heard it once". I realize that most Church members contribute to the Church so that "others" can carry on the work, but those "others" are too few in the form of the Clergy, etc. The true Church of Christ has to be within our own hearts as Christ refers to Himself as the Bridegroom coming for His bride (His Church in our hearts). Christ has said "Love thy Neighbor as thyself". Incidentally having mentioned neighbors, allow me to commend you for that very fine idea of teaching the Neighborhood Children to swim, and providing facilities for it - not everyone in your position would entertain the thought.

The program of visiting invalids - shut-ins, is a needful ministry, and one well adapted to the laity. This important work does not get the needed attention from the Clergy because of the numerous responsibilities they get loaded down with. How happy the invalids and shut-ins are when someone shows them kindness and love. It is love more than anything else they require don't you agree? Also, in giving them something good to read; however small. I am also interested in editing a small bulletin containing timely articles from other sources, as well as original personal items for distribution from time to time amongst the shut-ins and ^{other} interested parties. Once started and operating such a visitation program would receive the support of many people. So many folk neglect visitations because of work and other responsibilities and would welcome having someone take on such work.

I am writing to present you a challenge, namely, this - Could I interest you in taking a hand in such work? By this I mean, perhaps

-4-

you could be instrumental in steering me to some Foundation with which you might be familiar, and through which there might be provisions for grants in assisting Christian work. It could develop into a blessed interest for you and bring you much joy. I have prayed much that the Lord would lead me to someone having the same feeling of love towards shut-ins and invalids, and having a desire to join me in that concern for them.

Most of my spare time in life has been devoted to work for the Lord - teacher + Superintendent in Sunday School, Church board member, Choir work and directing, work with youth and lay preaching. I believe it is very important work dealing as it does with God and His wonderful means of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is essential to live by and to die by. I feel that it is my duty to help others to find Christ. While on a personal topic I might mention that I am of Swedish extraction, single, and 52 yrs. of age. I am a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and also a member of the International Gideons. I have given words concerning the invalids and shut-ins' needs. I know from personal experience as I had the responsibility and privilege of caring for my mother and my Aunt through their illness and shut-in days. To do this I had to sacrifice many personal opportunities. I have blessed memories of it.

I only trust that I have held your interest so far.

No doubt this letter comes as a surprise to you and I am praying that it will be a nice surprise. I like to receive surprise letters and trust that you will look upon this letter as a nice surprise. I realize the difficulty of writing to someone I do not know but then I trust it will be possible for me to greet you in person sometime not only to discuss my Christian work aims with you, but to discuss music and have the privilege

of having you play the piano for me. I love music but have nobody in this vicinity to discuss music with. I would enjoy hearing some of your records - your restricted album of Flagstaff's last appearance, and the record your friend made of a couple of your songs. I enjoy good music. Then too I am thinking of that fine Collection of Commentaries you have, and would appreciate seeing them. I have always been interested in visiting interesting houses. I have a niece in Portland Maine, who acquired a large beautiful Colonial type house there. A house or home becomes interesting because of memories. I would welcome the opportunity of an appointment to meet you in Little Falls without any obligations on your part what so ever. I am taking the liberty of enclosing my photo because you would have no idea of how I look whereas I have your picture from the Tribune, and which I thought was a very nice one. I trust that I will hear from you soon. I realize that you are busy. Please rest assured that I seek no publicity.

Please excuse my lengthy letter. I usually don't write this type of letter and very few would receive such a letter from me.

In closing I wish to leave the following scripture passage with you, namely the 13th Chapter of II Cor. The word Charity as expressed there has the meaning of love to me and I believe the Lord looks upon them as the same. I trust that the Lord will instill more and more of that love-charity in my heart.

Wishing you peace and joy in the Lord.

Sincerely,

In the Lord's Service

P.S. I was in Minneapolis Monday, and while there I obtained your address from the Little Falls phone book, at the Library there (business branch).
I live with my sister & her boys.

John A.W. Magnusson
Rt. 3, Box 116
Colfax, Wisconsin

MRS. LORING STAPLES
ROUTE 1
EXCELSIOR, MINNESOTA



GREENWOOD 4-8442

Dec 1, 1959

Dear Miss Mussen:-

Boris Sokoloff suggested that I write you about a young pianist that we are very interested in. His name is John Burg, he is sixteen and lives in Chaska. He has great talent and determination but because his family is poor & Chaska can offer nothing musically, he

needs all the help that he can get, both financial & moral, - in the way of encouragement & backing.

John has hitch-hiked frequently from Chaska to Northrop (a distance of about 30 miles) with money he has saved, - to hear the orchestra, - sometimes to find that the \$2.50 seats were all sold! Now Hildur Holander & I try to see that he gets any unused tickets.

Sometime when you are coming to Minneapolis for a concert, would you be interested in hearing John play? If you

MRS. LORING STAPLES
ROUTE 1
EXCELSIOR, MINNESOTA



GREENWOOD 4-8442

could let me know in advance, I
would be delighted to have you
come out here, - (Excelsior is quite
close to Chaska) either on a Friday
afternoon or Saturday morning.

Mr Dorati & Mr Lee, both
have heard John and feel that Nies
is a critical point in his career
because his teaching is quite
inadequate.

I hope you don't think it
presumptuous of me to write
you - but knowing of your
great interest and kindnesses
to young musicians, I thought
you would be kind.

Very sincerely,
Mary Staples

Boston Symphony Orchestra

CHARLES MUNCH, *Music Director*

THOMAS D. PERRY, JR., *Manager*

SYMPHONY HALL, BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS

COmmonwealth 6-1492

HARRY S. BEALL
Press and Publicity

December 9, 1959

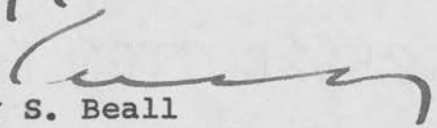
Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minnesota

Dear Laura Jane:

Thank you for your kind words; and I regretfully burst your bubble by telling you that I work on Press and Publicity matters for the Boston Symphony. The Orchestra has a most beloved and capable manager in the person of Mr. Perry!

When your finger is all healed and you are in Boston visiting friends again, please be sure to give me a ring on the phone.

Sincerely,



Harry S. Beall

HSB:ls

332 West Owatonna Street
Duluth 3, Minnesota

October 22, 1959

Miss Laura Jane Musser
608 Highwood Street
Little Falls, Minnesota

My dear Miss Musser,

A mutual friend, Mrs. Philip Eckman, has just informed me of your most worthy interest: the establishment of a conservatory of music. I cannot think of anything which would bring music to this area as successfully and as enduringly as would the establishment of just such a foundation. For it is through this very type of atmosphere, quality, philosophy, depth of musical conception and curricula that musical talents as well as the art itself are constructively furthered.

As was the case with Juilliard, fifteen years prior to its establishment as a foundation through the legacy of Augustus D. Juilliard, there had been a beginning! The U.M.D. Music Department also has a beginning, a "nucleus" which has potential located in an area which has a very great potential. It waits to be developed.

We have:

1. The Junior Music Program. (A beginning has been made in the direction of a preparatory division for children. Applied music is taught, at present, by faculty-approved college music students who have taken the course in studio teaching given in strings or piano or winds and who have passed the advanced standing examination in his or her major performance instrument. The program is seriously lacking in musicianship class work, pre-school classes, etc. This is due to inadequate staffing.)
2. Advanced Standing Examinations. (A beginning has been made in the direction of Performance Examinations before a Jury of the Faculty. The student is expected to demonstrate his achievement in performance of music from representative schools, or styles, along with ability to read at sight, to prepare a composition for performance unaided by his teacher and to demonstrate various technical and theoretical learnings commensurate with our present standards.)
3. Work Scholarships. (As we are woefully lacking in scholarships, the students are given an opportunity to work their way through. I would like to see an "apprenticeship" program replace this beginning, for example, with both instrumental as well as theoretical instruction in the junior music program and in other areas.)
4. The Humanist. (A student publication which encourages original work in the arts: poetry, art, short stories, short musical compositions. Music has had a rather "thin" showing. We need guidance time as well as the proper "atmosphere" and "musical soil" in order to develop and give musical depth to the creative potential.)
5. Music Department Alumni Association and the Music Department News Letter. (This organization and the letter has been in existence for almost ten years. The association has its own governing body and the letter, published in November and March, keeps the alumni who are out of state in constant touch with

the department, its teaching philosophies and its activities.)

6. Fine Arts Festival. (Held each spring, the festival is open to the public. All departments within the Division of Humanities cooperate. There are plays, guest string ensembles, poetry readings, art exhibitions, etc.)

7. Opera Workshop. (Begun only this past summer under Herman Herz, conductor of the Duluth Symphony.)

8. Member of N.A.S.M. (The B.M. Degree would be a new offering and the new Conservatory Curriculum would have to pass inspection by the examiner(s) from N.A.S.M.)

9. Equipment.

- a) Music Department is housed in the new Humanities Building on the new campus.
- b) Listening rooms with cubicles for listening classes or individual use. 22 practice rooms, 8 studios, 4 classrooms.
- c) Instruments (slowly being acquired).
- d) Library for books, music, scores, records (slowly being acquired).
- e) Recital Hall. (contains 2 grands, a Baldwin Electric Organ and a Harpsichord).

10. Degrees. (The degrees granted at present are the B.S. and B.A. with a Major in Music.)

In addition to curriculum changes (course revisions, extensions, additions, etc.), to being able to give those technical and mental skills so necessary for opening the way to professional performance careers as well as those careers in teaching, composition, and theory, the foundation might also seek to further music through a research project into some particular area. Eastman, for example, dedicated itself to a scientific approach to the study of theory. Two things strike me as being urgently needed. One is an evaluation of our present "music teaching" throughout the public school system. I further believe that only the best teachers should be allowed to take on this responsibility. They should be given adequate training in principles of musicianship with all that this implies. There should be a well developed, formal program of studies. We have the laboratory facilities. A second possibility might be a scientific research into problems of sight reading.

It seems I have rambled on too long. The urgent desire to do something constructively for this area, musically, would come down to one word - education. Not academic education hours, not baton twirling, but a conservatory education that conserves music! For we, in our generation, are responsible to that great heritage that centuries of culture have built. (Dare I suggest something as "Russian" as a Ministry of Culture!)

Hildur Eckman also mentioned that we might be able to drive to Little Falls for a visit. I should thoroughly enjoy meeting and visiting with you. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to write to you.

Sincerely yours,

E. Ruth van Appleborn

Mora Minn.
Miss Laura Jane Musser Dec - 1 - 1959

of Little Falls
Dear Miss Musser, Minn.

In the November 1st
Minneapolis Sunday Tribune - I read an very
interesting write up about you, and your
town of Little Falls; I see your life is out
standing for others - teaching music and
swimming, in your own pool - on the yard
of your beautiful estate - All along, I read
with much interest - and learn your father
was an "Iowan" - I also came from Iowa
and was born, 11 miles South West of Grinnell
Iowa - in a log house - my mothers maiden
name - was Carrie Macy; her uncle Jesse
was professor in Grinnell College for many
years - also my father was one time Editor
of the Grinnell paper - but he turned
from that - and went to teaching school
and farming - and when he bought this
320 A^s - 6 miles South East of Mora - for a
future home, to come to the next fall
after buying it - which in the meantime,
(over)

— he passed away — so never ever lived
on the farm he bought — So Mother, came
here, — a widowed women, — and seven children.
we went thru many hardships for the first
ten years, — but my two older brothers and
I worked hard, and supported them, — and sent
them thru school, — they all drifted down
to Minneapolis & St. Paul, — and married there
But my brother Millard & I — stayed by the
farm here, — and now have 600 A^s — so made
enough just to take life more easy, and hobby
farm — last winter I went on a fifteen state
tour, — spending most of the winter at Phoenix
and Mesa, — Arizona, — and went on to California
and clear up thru Washington State Home — a trip
of 8911 — miles, — I have 230 pictures of this tour.
all on this subject now, — — You resemble ~~my~~^{my}
cousin, Maude Huxton a teacher at Eddyville Iowa.
My Grandmother's first name was — "Jane" — Mary —
also my niece ^{Baby} daughter — living at Monterey Park Calif.
name is Laura — (Oh, yes — Reason I went to
Arizona — have one sister at Mesa and one at
Phoenix) — I've been in Little Falls once
on a return tour, — from Lake Superior drive to Ft. William
Canada — back down from Staska State Park, — and via
Little Falls, — visiting — the Lindberg Park — which
you know very well no doubt, — Now you are
a music minded Lady, — Well I had a Cousin —
Luella Mendenhall of Marshalltown, Iowa, that
was a very good at music, — & singing —

While living in Chicago I'll - one time
years back - she was in with the highest of
singers about Chicago - one time attending
a party - at the home of the famous -
"McCormick" - singer - there - Luella showed
me the McCormick home, when Mother & her
and my sister Zola, went to the Chicago

Century of Progress - So all round, I
always did like to travel and meet
people - and after reading about you
Miss. Munser, and that mansion you live
in, - I have a desire to call on you some
time, - as all round it seems, you could be
a very interesting Lady to visit with, and
learn to know for a better acquaintance &

By the way, did the Weyerhaeuser ever
have a big swell home in Duluth - as it
was one time - I was called to Duluth to be
a juror on some Government Federal Cases - and
when looking for a room to stay by near the
Court Rooms in the Post Office there in Duluth,

I called at a big home to get a room -
which had a room - but did not take it, -
and seems the Lady said - this home was
one time the lumberman's ^{home} as Weyerhaeuser
anyway, it was a big long sounding name, and
never took much thought about it afterwards, -

(over)

— and so I have often wondered about
this home — if it could be really one
of — Weyerhaeuser's — homes. When in Phoenix
last winter I saw, "Wrigley" — Home, the
Chewing Gum gentleman's mansion; — I also
know a friend that lived in Chicago, that
worked in a jewelry store, — and knew Wrigley —
selling him jewelry. So all around, surprising
what one can learn, and meet in traveling
around. Miss Musser. It is about

time for the mail carrier, — so will close
hoping some day, — that I may meet
you, — and also be glad to hear from
what part of Iowa, did your father
come from — there are many people that
came to Minnesota from Iowa. Wishing
Best of success & Health, to you.

Sincerely,

Ralph B. Mendenhall

R.B.M.

Mora
Minn.



Laura Jane Munn,

Little Falls,

Minnesota,

Sept. 1 - to June 1

B U D G E T

PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Charles Lindbergh Elementary School
1958 - 1959

EXPENSES

Hospitality and secretary	\$ 30.00
Program	250.00
Lunch	18.00
Publicity	25.00
Membership	3.00
Procedure Book	15.00
Scholarship	100.00
Professional	
Conventions	35.00
Magazine Sub. and Scout Leadership	30.00
Treats and Gifts	
Christmas trees and treats	175.00
Founders Day	5.00
Educational TV	5.00
Miscellaneous	
Hot Lunches	180.00
Spring Roundup	30.00
Room Prizes	20.00
Patrol Trip	15.00
TOTAL	<u>936.00</u>

INCOME

Carnival	500.00
Membership	70.00
Lunches	175.00
Funds on hand	212.71
Accounts Receivable (Boy Scouts)	100.00
	<u>1087.71</u>

Finance Committee

R. T. Moonier

Rev. Bissell

Harvey Rychner

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO
Telephone Superior 7-0100

Dear Miss Musser:

The luncheon is a
12 noon. Please be in
your seat at 11:50.

Enclosed find both
your luncheon seat
and seat in Soldiers' field.

I would suggest you
find me at festival ~~head~~ luncheon
and let me advise you on
rest of festival activities.

I will have suite at Grand Hotel
Thurs & Friday nights, at Palmer House Saturday.
I have a grand time.

Sincerely,
Phil Maxwell

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

TRIBUNE SQUARE

CHICAGO 11, ILL.

Phil Maxwell

I would like to
meet the National
Federation of Music Clubs
leader - the one from Pennsylvania

Miss Laura Gene Musser
Kinden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota



SPECIAL DELIVERY

I am Mrs. Laura
Mussel from
Little Fall, Minnesota
the one who
promoted the Van
Cliburn recognition
Day in Minnesota -

I am a good friend
of the



Sherman
Pitlocks of
Columbia Artists

Phil is leaving for rehearsal
of the Grofs Fantasy.

Little Falls Public Schools

Paul J. Hanson, Superintendent

Little Falls, Minnesota

September 9, 1958

Miss Laura Jane Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Dear Miss Musser:

Mr. Edwin Johnson called me once last spring regarding the grand piano we have at the high school. He asked if it would be for sale.

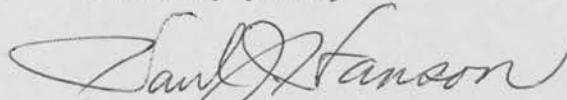
I explained that we need the piano. He then asked if we would exchange it for a new piano of like quality. I replied that I felt sure that such an arrangement would meet with the approval of our school board and music people in the school.

I discussed the matter with our school board last spring and it has been inquired about by the board at later meetings, including last evening when the board met.

We will be glad to discuss the exchange of pianos are willing to make the exchange for a new piano. I am sure you would be sure that the one we would get would be a good one and one that our music men would have a chance to discuss with you about before the exchange is made.

Please call or let me know by letter.

Sincerely yours,



Paul J. Hanson
Superintendent

PJH/mr

Symphony night

AT MACALESTER

The President
and
The Department of Music
of Macalester College
request the pleasure of

Miss Laura Jane Musser
company at

Dinner and a Symphony Concert

Monday, the second of February

Nineteen hundred and fifty-nine

at six o'clock

Wallace Hall

1632 Summit Avenue

Saint Paul

R.S.V.P.
\$4.75 per person

Formal

Following the dinner in Wallace Hall, there will be a concert in the College Field House where seats will be reserved for the dinner guests.

On this occasion the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra and the Macalester College Choir, under the direction of Antal Dorati, will present Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and the world premiere of a new work by Vincent Welles Carpenter, Composer in Residence at Macalester.

Here are your concert tickets for Symphony Night at Macalester February second. The dinner is at six o'clock at Wallace Hall, 1632 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul. An experienced driver will be at the door to park your automobile for you if you wish. Transportation will be provided between the dining hall and the field house and return.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, INC.
Temporary Headquarters - 1949 Broadway, New York, 23, N. Y. - - - ENdicott 2-5330
MILDRED E. HILL, *Director*

July 16, 1959

Officers of Board

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Secretary

WHITMAN KNAPP,
Counsel

Miss Laura Jane Musser,
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

Dear Miss Musser:

We send our most sincere thanks for
your fine gift of \$500. which you have contributed in
the name of Mr. and Mrs. Groth.

Mr. Dingley told me of the very pleasant
luncheon you had and of your intention to help with our
work. It pleases us very much that you have heard such
good things about our work and of course Mr. and Mrs. Groth
both are interested in it, too.

We also share your admiration for the
outstanding musical work of Mr. and Mrs. Groth and have the
highest regard for their accomplishments in the musical world.

With very best wishes and real appreciation
for the help that you have given our work.

Cordially yours,

Mildred E. Hill

Mildred E. Hill, Director

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA

HUGO FLAIG, MINISTER

PARSONAGE PHONE 191

March 27, 1959

Miss Laura Jane Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Dear Miss Musser,

In our telephone conversation of several weeks ago, I promised to send you a transcript of the minutes of the Church Committee when they had acted upon your request to place your name on the "inactive" list of our church members.

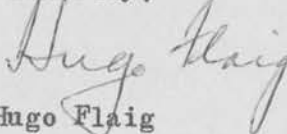
The committee met last evening, in regular session. The following is a true transcript of the minutes as they appear in the record book of the church clerk:

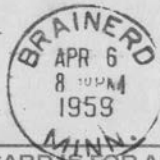
"Upon written request of Miss Laura Jane Musser, her name has been placed on the inactive list. This request has been placed on file in the church records. We shall be happy to return her name to the list of active church members upon her request at any time.

(signed) Hugo Flaig, minister; Mrs. Jo AmMellor, church clerk
Carlyle Hammerbeck, chairman, Board of Deacons. "

We send you our most cordial Easter greetings with this note!

Sincerely,


Hugo Flaig



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn

CIVIC MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Change of Concert Date

ST. LOUIS SINFONIETTA

SATURDAY, APRIL 11; 8:30 p.m.
instead of

Tuesday, April 14th

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP RECEPTION following Concert CANCELLED.

Hope to see you.

J.D.

JOSEPH C. ANDERSON
6840 UNION AVENUE
CHICAGO 21, ILLINOIS

August 24, 1959

Mrs. Laura Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Musser,

Many thanks for the wonderfully interesting and timely book "Peace or Atomic War" by Dr. Albert Schweitzer that you so graciously presented to me. I read it thru the second time yesterday. Today I am reading it for the third time; so important is it, that it is impossible to lay it down.

Especially is this true of page 44 paragraph 2 thru the top two lines on page 46: where he asks and then answers the question:
"How can a new trust come about? And yet, it must. We cannot continue in this paralyzing mistrust." And again, "The spirit is a mighty force for transforming things." And "Now let us set our hopes on the spirit's bringing peoples and nations back to an awareness of culture."

He quotes President Eisenhower's speech of November 7, 1957, "What the world needs more than a gigantic leap into space is a gigantic leap into peace."

In conclusion let me quote from page 47 Dr. Schweitzer says, "One wishes that agreement could be reached immediately to renounce rockets and missiles, but this can only come about as a result of a spiritual advance everywhere which as yet it is difficult to visualize."

Gratefully and appreciatively,

Joseph Anderson.

Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Little Falls, Minn.

March 3, 1959

Laura Jane Musser
608 Highland Ave
Little Falls, Minn.

Dear Laura,

Again it is my extreme privilege to write to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce to give our most heartfelt thanks for your tremendous efforts and accomplishments in the field of cultural development and enhancement.

To you, Laura, it is befitting of our City and Chamber to recognize your sincere effort to grant us a fuller insight into the musical world. Too often we humans tend to overlook this most valuable of our civilized possessions. You have awakened this response in a most gratifying manner.

You are doing a very wonderful service to the community in bringing to us the finest of talent. Van Cliburn is the very essence of talent and true humility. It was wonderful that we had the chance to hear him play. He is a fine person as well as a genius in music.

To say more, Laura, would be superfluity on my part. Really all is summed up in saying on the behalf of the Board our sincere thanks for every thing.

Yours truly,



MEMBER UNITED STATES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Boyhood Home of Col. Charles A. Lindbergh - Lindbergh State Park - Site of Camp Ripley, Nation's
Largest National Guard Training Camp - Pine Grove Park - World's Largest 'Little Pig Market'

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MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN FINANCE COMMITTEE

(A VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE)

NORTHWESTERN BANK BUILDING
FEDERAL 5-6821 - MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

June 1959

Dear Republican:

It is with more promise, more hope and confidence than the Republican Party has had since Governor Freeman took office, that we launch our 1959 membership drive.

Without doubt, the tide is turning!

The people are disenchanted with the Governor. We hear it all over the State. Even people who supported him last fall are voicing disgust with the Governor's "spend and Tax" program, his irresponsible leadership.

Our job Today is to capitalize on these DFL weaknesses...
to counter-attack with Republican strength.

Big strides are being taken right now. Our Party has been revitalized.. buoyed up by the energy and enthusiasm of our new Chairman and Chairwoman...Ed Viehman and Mrs. Evelyn Heberling and their staff. They're doing a great job of canvassing the State...talking to people... planning meetings...organizing groups...activating workers. Hardly a day goes by without news of Republican activity on radio, TV and in the newspapers.

Close to 800,000 readers saw the attached newspaper ad. It was circulated on April 14, and again on April 15, as these same tax-weary Minnesotans were filing their State tax returns.

This is spade work for a Republican victory in '60. This is the aggressive, continuing program we must sustain in the non-election year to pave the way for the Big Election year.

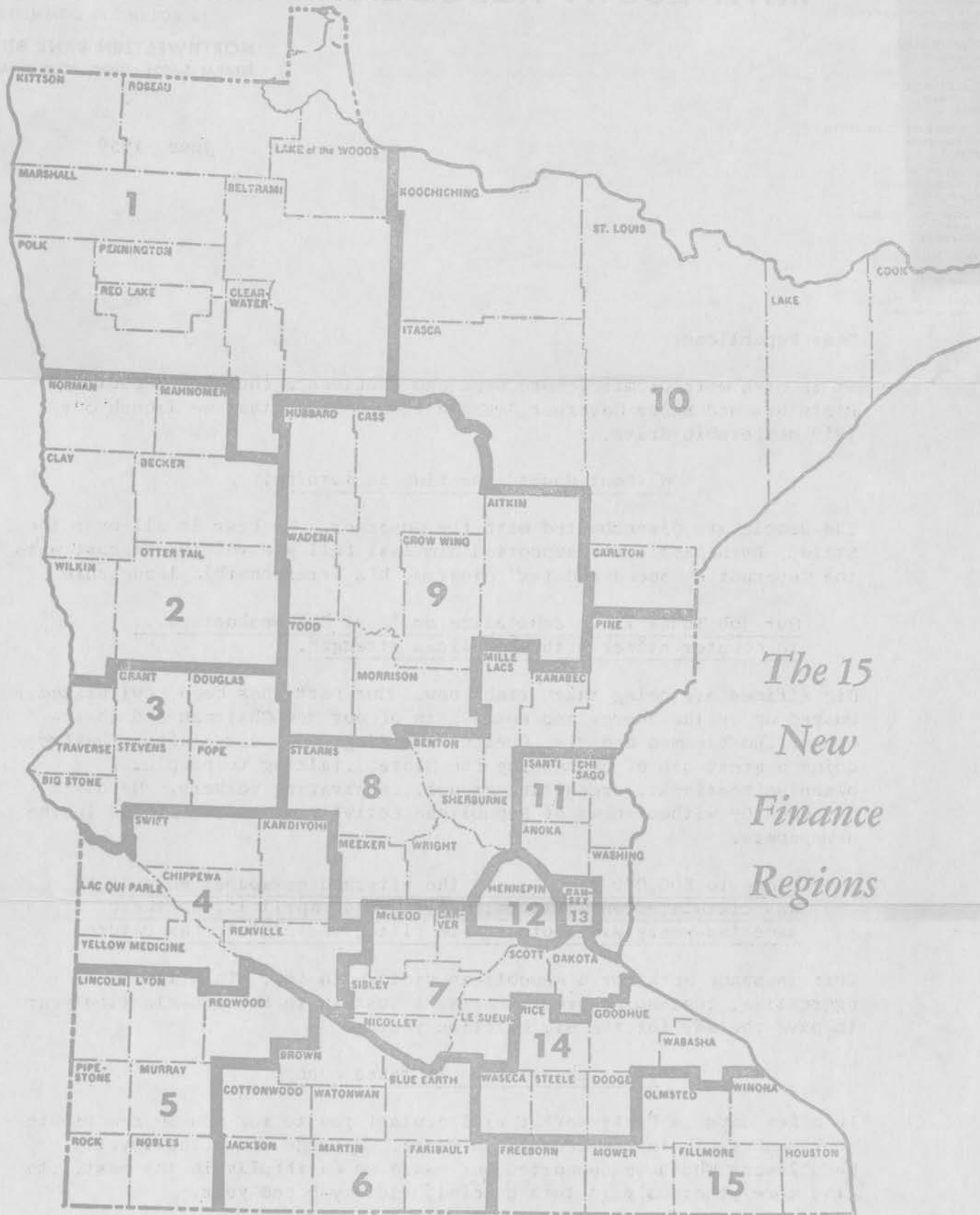
It is essential. It takes money.

In a few days, a Party worker will contact you to ask you to reactivate your membership in the Republican Party. We urge you...the loyal Republicans who have supported our cause so faithfully in the past...to give more generously in this crucial, victory-bound year.

Sincerely,

Lucian S. Strong

LUCIAN S. STRONG, Chairman



*The 15
New
Finance
Regions*

March 4, 1959

Dear Laura Jane:

Please excuse the paper I'm writing on but I'm under a dryer at the beauty shop and wanted to make good use of my time.

It was really wonderful having you here with us last Wednesday. I know I didn't over estimate your ability as an organizer, an idea person and a warm and feeling dedicated worker. Several people made these same comments to me about you. Both Dr. Krueger and Mrs. Grant were very impressed by you.

How are you getting along? Have you been able to line up a special event Chairman to help you?

I'm sending you a duplicate list of Townships in your county. One is for your records and the other one you may return to me as you secure Township chairman.

The Chairman you have for Swanville is Mrs. Byron (Jeannette) Johnson who you met with two other ladies. If you want to write to her any time her address is just

Swanville. I am going to work with
Rev March 17 and 18 on the west side
of Morrison County. If you have any good
names for us to contact, let me know.

Right now, I'm trying to find Chairmen
in some other counties and it's a hard job.
I would like to get a Chairman for each
County before I come back to Little Falls
but if you need me, don't hesitate to
write or call.

I am so happy that you have
Morrison County as I know a good job
will be done. I wish I could find a
Chairman like you in every County.

We enjoyed having you in our home
so much Laura Jane. Your music was wonderful
and you made us laugh so hard. We are both
looking forward to seeing you again and
so is Dr. Krueger.

Warmest personal regards,
Margaret Englund



UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY
OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Mrs. P. J. Englund
15 28 6 th Ave. No.
St. Clouc, Minn.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls,
Minnesota

Dear Laura Jane,

Just an extra little personal note. Last Friday evening you inquired about my family.

If I would have had a chance to talk to you alone I would have told you of all my problems.

So here it is in all confidence.

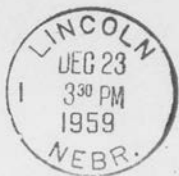
Last August my wife Margaret who is 46 became involved with a young man age 23. So in Oct. she sued for a divorce. In her divorce of course she doesn't mention this man but instead she makes the most brutal charges which are all false. So of course I am going to fight her demands so I shall get custody of all four children.

I hired Margaret a few years ago as my house keeper when my first wife died. Margaret had been married and divorced 3 times previous to our marriage. Of course I shouldn't have taken the risk of marrying her. She has a very unfavorable record. My attorneys are trying to have her consent to a mental examination.

From the evidence we have plus her past record should give me a good chance of getting all of the children.

I spend Sat and Sun at home in St Cloud with the children.

During the week I live with my sister and mother in Minneapolis. That is 3244 Humboldt Ave So. and the phone number is Taylor 2-9034. Sincerely, Phil



Mrs. Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

From —
Mrs. Walter L. Anderson
No 405 Continuität Bldg.

Lincoln 8

Nebr.

Home address 2134
Euclid
Cir

2 134 Euclid Ave. Lincoln
Dear Laura Musser. ^{Walter} Dec. 21/59

Thank you very much
for your lovely card of
sympathy rec'd today.
It came as a shock altho
Walter had been in the
V.A. Hospital here in Lincoln
for a year, but I was
always hoping a miracle
would happen, he did
have a wonderful life but
it is so hard to give them
up after 57 years, but I
will try to count my
blessings - when I lost my
own dear father in 1911 -
it was pretty hard, but I did
have Walter to help me.

My heart goes out to you -
Oh I know how it is
after years - I am
so glad to know you &

The funeral was matinee at the mortuary
at the
Grove

you are sweet to write me
I've just had a card from
Rivard and Miss Philip
Gregory at Laguna Beach -
he was very fond of Walter
I am Love for you + yours -
Helin Nance Anderson.

Your kind expression of sympathy
is deeply appreciated
and gratefully acknowledged

Helin Nance Anderson

Mr

E. Ruth van Appledorn
332 West Owatonna
Duluth, 3, Minn.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
608 Highwood Street
Little Falls
Minnesota

Nov. 2, 1959

Dear Miss Musser;

Thank you so very much for your letter of October 24th, 1959.

I have been somewhat "under the weather" for the past few days, and, along with trying to have my students prepared for the "clinic" this Friday, was unable to marshal my energies further. (John Elvin, Oberlin Conservatory, my former teacher, is conducting this piano clinic at UMD).

When you return from your auto trip in November let's get together. Meanwhile, I'll work on a letter which I'll send in December adding a few more reasons for the "deplorable state of affairs".

I have sustained a sneaking suspicion that Anna Russell could do a "fabulous" job with "Music(?) Education(!) - yet(?!)". I'd be first in line at the box office. (Confidentially, I'm planning on taking my PhD with her).

Have a good trip - & welcome to Appledorn

Postmark
April 4, 1959



transcript publishing co.

50 E. Broadway
Little Falls, Minnesota

PUBLISHERS OF LITTLE FALLS DAILY TRANSCRIPT

Laura Jane --

I have seen several copies of this publication in the past. It is neither Christian nor educational. It is quite obviously a Fascist inspired, if not actually Fascistic group. Its never-ending theme is hate Jew, hate Negro, under the guise of hate communism. I would put it in the round file.

JLT

DR. WILBUR A. CARLSON
807½ WASHINGTON AVENUE
OFFICE HOURS 9 TO 12 AND 1 TO 3
CLOSED ALL DAY SATURDAY
DETROIT LAKES, MINNESOTA

November 9, 1959

Dear Miss Musser:-

I read with great interest the account of your home and am wondering if it would be too presumptuous to ask if I could call some time in passing through Little Falls.

I am much interested in old furniture, antiques, china ect. and while the article did not mention all this I can not help feeling that your home has much of it.

I have lived at Detroit Lakes some forty five years. Our home on the lake, while a modest one, has considerable things of the above nature that Mrs. Carlson and I have acquired in our travels.

Sincerely,

Wilbur A. Carlson

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls, Minnesota



GIVE -
MENTAL
HEALTH
FUND



Miss Laura J. Musser
Little Falls,
N.J.

Personal

Mrs W. T. Jacky

778 W. Parlington Ave.

St Paul, Minn.

I'm sure that I have
not been mis-lead
today! Please let me
hear from you - any
way - Call or write or
come on down. Inform-
ality - is the key in
this house - as I hope
you will one day see!
Truly, a house that
God has blessed! I
will not recount the
blessings for now - But
will wait to hear from
you - By mail, phone or in
reality! I have a feeling
that God has blessed
your heart & there is
a reason for my writing
that has more meaning
than either you or I
know! Truly He works in
wondrous ways - His mis-
acles to perform!

Nov. 26 '59

Dear Laura Jane,
You may, or may not
remember me - I wasn't
in High School long enough
to get to know anyone in
L.J., too well. St Paul, has
been my home since I
was sixteen!

In a 'breacher' before we
are to go over to my in-
laws for Thanksgiving din-
ner - I was resting for
a few minutes! Out of the
clear blue - I began to
consider you! My mother,
(Mrs Geo. Hamnerbeck) was
with us for a week a
week ago - and midst
much talk about many
things of this new life - she
mentioned your fabulous
Bible library - and how

very much you memorized
& know! A few days ago
as I was doing my us-
ual writing - that has
been only in the last year!
I was wondering who
did I know that was
capable of helping in this
tremendous project that
seems to be in progress!
Who could be with me as
a critic, a friend - and
a great help, in time of
need! This is such a long
story - Only in this last
year have I really lived
never having known be-
fore the meaning of 'born
anew' - I now know with
glorious assurance - the-
ough a living God - & our
Saviour - that it is true!
The hitherto unknown
ability to write - flows

daily on paper in essay
& poetry form - only to
his glory! Now with fine
sons - age fine to twenty
I am busy, but plenty
apt, with joy in this new
life - I have been given
strength to surmount
any strife!
Now again, I say, I
thought of you today -
It's strange the things
people will do - when
God - does the leading
to! And for the very
reason that to you I
write - assurance I have
that it is right! I can
only believe - your life -
has too, been touched
by a living God - as he
is, in these days of
grace - regenerating,
we - was without him
are - but God!

my Saviour, brow!

I just looked through
some of my writings.
There are so many hun-
dreds - then I decided
instead of sending a
sample - I will let
this letter suffice for
now!

With deepest sincerity
I hope to hear from
you - Even if it's just
to let me know you
did receive what start-
ed out - to be - a note!

Sincerely,

Norma G. Eby

(Hammond)

478 W. Arlington Ave.

St Paul, Minn. 17

2.
Having entered through
the back door of the
Bible - so to speak "St."
could I speak to you, in
the coming weeks - I
then can explain the
phrase I used above.
But, the glory - almost
unutterable of His Love.

Then the power of
knowing so much - I
never knew before!
knowing why - I could
never have prejudices
by the score - know-
ing why - only in the
last year - that I have
lived daily & honestly
with Him so near!
It's too bad I start-
ed - on another sheet
for there is no end
to what there is

To say ~~who~~ who to me - has
made life so sweet!
To face with such
knowledge each new
day! For humility &
sincerity - daily I pray.
For many who lived
unknowingly & blindly
following - as I did.
I daily write - lesson
that I know will not
be hid! Searching in
earnest glea - through
what I've learned -
back to the Bible &
The Living Tree. The
only One - who can &
will save their soul -
Though a year ago, I
hopefully - believed
I had a goal - I
shoulder to think
how close to the

precipice I came! 'Till
He reached down
& touched a heart,
that now knows shame
so good, doing my
very best - & glorifying
& all the rest! Want-
ing for nothing - that's
for sure! Praying too,
but not too sure! Then
to have this Wondrous
gift given to me! See-
ing with my soul -
that I knew not, had
eyes to see & hearing
with ears - a new &
different tune know-
ing there's hope for
everyone - Even those
shooting for the moon
so much misunderstood
Oh now - Gladly I'll
share the crown of th-
orns - pressed into

November 9, 1959

Dear Miss Musser,

I hope you don't think it strange of me to write to you. You see, I read the article in the "Minneapolis Tribune" about your mansion and your interests. I found it very fascinating.

I couldn't help but write to you since you have one main interest as I, which is music. I have taken piano lessons since I was six years old. I like playing the piano very much. I also take vocal lessons. The only thing I lack is the time to practice. I am a junior in High School, so I am kept quite busy with other activities.

You are so very lucky that you are a good swimmer? I have always wanted to learn to swim, but somehow I just didn't. I think it is a wonderful sport.

I know you are very busy with piano lessons etc. But if you do have some time would you write to me? I sure would enjoy hearing from you. Maybe we could be pen pals.

Just, so that you know,

a little something about me, I will tell you of my family life etc. I am sixteen years of age. Was born and raised in Ladysmith. I attend Ladysmith High School. My mother and I live together. Most of the time it is just the two of us, because my dad works away, and doesn't get home very often. My brother is married and lives in Minneapolis. My brother and I are the only children in the family.

Some of my interests include: Sewing, Reading, Dancing and Cooking.

Well, I hope I haven't bored you. Please write. I love to get mail.

Sincerely yours,

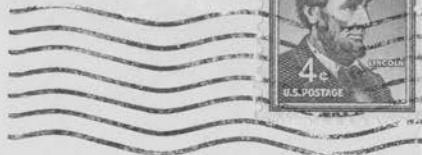
Charlotte Jandrt

My Address:

Charlotte Jandrt
602 Fritz Ave.
Ladysmith, Wis.

AFTER 5 DAYS, RETURN TO

Charlotte Jader
602. Fifth Avenue
Ladysmith, Wis



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota



MISS

LAURA Jane Musser

Little Falls, "LINDEN HILL"
Minnesota.

U.S.A.

B. Schultz Persen
Minde pr. Bergen
Norway.

Copyright

Millet
120/002 J

Made in
Norway



December 1959.

Dear Miss Müsser.

How can I apologize for my long, long unpolite silence - especially when I have appreciated so much all the lovely greetings from you.

Hoping that you will forgive me I want to send you my love and all the best for Christmas and The New Year. I also hope that this will find you in good health and happy.

With my best
wishes
Yours

Borghild Schultz
Persen



Handwritten signature or mark.

Little Falls, Minn.
Nov. 3, 1959

Dear Miss Musser:

I want to congratulate you on the very, very, interesting interview of yours in the Sunday Tribune. And your picture and the setting was just lovely, in fact, it was beautiful! I enjoyed it so much and just had to write you this little note.

Sincerely,
Barbara Lentz

3636 Sixteenth Street N.W.
Apartment B531
Washington 10, D.C.
October 26, 1959

Dear Miss Musser,

My mother forwarded the My Fair Lady program that you so thoughtfully suggested she send. Many thanks. My husband and I enjoyed going through it, albeit wistfully. We missed seeing the show in Chicago, and it has not yet come to Washington. Now we're pinning our hopes on a weekend in New York, now that we're so near.

Joe and I are finding that living in Washington is an interesting and exciting experience. It is truly a lovely city.

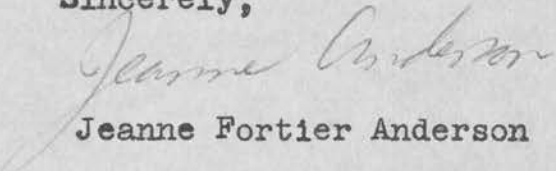
Joe's job with the Post is proving a challenge that he finds stimulating and enjoyable. I'm still job hunting for the kind of writing or research job I want. (Perhaps I shall have to take up free lance work seriously!)

My mother's and Natalie's letters are filled with news of your many kindnesses to them, for which I am also grateful. Mother is just now finding time to follow up some of the interests she temporarily gave up while actively engaged in rearing two children.

Of course, I continue to follow the news of your many contributions to music appreciation in Little Falls with interest.

I hope that should you be in Washington at any time, you will call on us.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Fortier Anderson

April 9, 1959

708 Hunnison Rd.
York, Pa.

Dear Miss. Messa,

Your letter in Time magazine was of great interest to me for I have been reading quite a bit of Schweitzer lately and have also been interested in Tillich's theology. I would like to hear from you on this subject. Does Tillich agree with Schweitzer as to the role of eschatology in Christian ethics? Does Tillich agree with Schweitzer that the church is merely an organization - empty and sterile? Has Schweitzer kept up with such new movements as existentialism?

We have an organization in York -

The Friends of Albert Schweitzer. The women who formed it raised \$925.00 almost single handed. Perhaps you would like to form a chapter in your area. If so write for details.

Well, write if you have time.

Cordially yours,

Darry Missenholder