



Laura Jane Musser and
family papers.

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Manz Rt 4
Little Falls Minn



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hills
Minn

Schedule.

Our telephone #
is Lh 5- 3467.

I'll be so happy
to hear from you
Thanks so much
Gloria M.

Rt 4 B4103

Linde Falls

Sept 19-59

Dear Laura Jane,

First, let me apologize
for not calling you
back regarding your
kind invitation to
bring the girls in to
sewing. It so happened
that we had guests
from Washington
& I quite forgot to call

until a day later & then
was unable to reach
you. They really wanted
to come but I was
snowed under with
company.

Esther noticed your
request in the Transcript
that parents who desired
lessons write to you.

The girls are most eager
to start again. I too
am looking forward
to their beginning this
fall. I hope you will
be able to work the
four of them into your

547 Fairbrook
Northville Mich. Jan.



O'Leary



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Joseph O'Leary

Dear Laura Jane,
you were so thoughtful to
remember Bob and I on your trip
to Hawaii. The salad bowl is
simply beautiful. It shall always
be a joy to us and a lovely
reminder of your thoughtfulness.
We send you our sincerest
thanks.

Shirley Zuk O'Leary

Poisson



PRAY
FOR
PEACE



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minn.

*Mrs. J. Richard Poisson
34 Wilson Road
Princeton, New Jersey.*

Mrs. J. Richard Poisson
34 Wilson Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Laura Jane dear;

Rick and I thank you
from the bottom of our
hearts for helping us with
our problems. Your suggestion
is fine ~~to~~ with us, but
please remember the money
is not necessary until October
1. Your letter was our first
bright event in a good
many months but we have
our fingers crossed about
our future and hope I may
be able to follow this letter
with some good news about

Dick.

I can't let my spirits sag for Dick's sake. His only wish is to be able to do things for his family - never thinks of himself. Somehow we shall find a way to get both girls through Harding school. They will have the finest secondary education we can find - if they want college they'll have to help themselves.

We have just received a wonderful letter from the camp directors and apparently both girls are making great studies in all ways. They

Mrs. J. Richard Poisson
34 Wilson Road
Princeton, New Jersey

on both water skiing like
mad and Laura has
taken any responsibility in her
stride.

The last mail is almost
leaving & I do want to get
this off.

Again Laura Jane - all our
thanks.

Love from us all
Betty

Poisson



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls
Minn.

Air Mail

MRS. J. RICHARD POISSON
34 WILSON ROAD
PRINCETON, N. J.

MRS. J. RICHARD POISSON
34 WILSON ROAD
PRINCETON, N. J.

Dear Laura Jane;

I have been trying to
get off a note during the
past few weeks, but with
the girls home and my
job, I am too tired at
night to take pen in hand.

Both girls had a wonderful
summer and enjoyed themselves
with glory. Susan took her
responsibilities with good
grace and Margot managed
to take most of the honors
in the sub-senior camp. She
is a beautiful swimmer and

diver and took four summer-
up awards (during, swimming,
water sking & canoeing). The
summer was a junior
counselor so useful Margaret
really distinguished herself.

Lusan leaves for school
on Friday and is really
looking forward to it. I am
sure she will do her very
best - she has so much
ability if she'd only use it.
16 is a glorious age, but
rather strong on Mother & Father.
She has plenty of brains, and
fortunately believes in numbers -
I think I'd die if she ever

MRS. J. RICHARD POISSON
34 WILSON ROAD
PRINCETON, N. J.

went steady;

I know you will be interested to hear about Dick. He is general manager of The Princeton Printing Co. The opportunity presented itself around August 1 and although times are tough, the job has potentialities which all depend on Dick. Working in his home town is one thing which has always intrigued him and I must say life is quite different. I have him to the office at 8:00 and he is home by 5:00. Now we

are able to really enjoy an evening as we are usually finished dance before the time he formerly got home. He works very hard but thoroughly enjoys it.

Of course once again Dick and I thank you for making Lucien's school possible. When I see you there is so much to tell.

Love from us all
Betsy

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

SF-1201

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

(336AMC NOV 27 59) MA055 PA008

P NA086 NL PD TDN FOREST HILLS NY 26

LAURA JANE MUSSEY *Deliver* ROOM 494 (PHONE IN ROOM)

FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL MPLS

MISSED OUR DEAR LITTLE LAURA JANE AND ED ALL DAY. THANKSGIVING
FLOWERS BEAUTIFUL THANKS ALSO FOR CHANEL NUMBER 5 AND BOOK.
WE TALKED ABOUT YOU WITH DAVID ABEL WHO SHARED THANKSGIVING.
HE LIKED YOU AND WISHES TO BE REMEMBERED. GOD BLESS AND TAKE
CARE OF YOURSELF. BEST TO ED LOVE

SHERMAN AND DORI

5.

FE 6-6691

WC 858A LH

May 15, 1959

[Little Falls]

Dear Miss Musser

We would like to have you
and Miss Doroff as our guest at
our picnic on Sunday, May 17, 1959.

Dinner will be sometime between
12 and 12:30.

Mrs. Marlene Popilek +
Cupids of Dist. 1179



PRAY
FOR
PEACE



Mrs Laura Jane Mueser
Little Falls
Minn.

Mrs. J. Richard Poisson
34 Wilson Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Mrs. J. Richard Poisson
34 Wilson Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Laura Jane;

This should have been written days ago but spare moments seem to be few and far between. I have gotten a part-time job, which plus all the housework leaves me wretched by the end of the day.

It was wonderful seeing you and we both appreciate your taking the time to come down to see us.

The girls have been at camp for about two weeks and are making us very proud. As I told you Susan was asked to be a junior counselor and

both she and Margot have
been elected officers of their
respective teams, the highest
honor a camper can get.

The rest of this letter is
the hardest thing I have ever
written but please try to
understand.

Three years ago we had
a terrific year income-wise.
We were able to get a few
things we had needed and
wanted and things were looking
very bright. We were also
able to put into savings accounts
a sufficient amount to take
care of boarding school
and camp.

Two years ago business
started to go down hill and
this past year we have had

Mrs. J. Richard Poisson
34 Wilson Road
Princeton, New Jersey

to take our savings in order
to make ends meet. Dick
is trying very hard to relocate
but so far nothing has
turned up.

You once said if you
could ever be of any help
to let you know. Would
you let us borrow enough
to see Susan through school
next year. She has made
such a wonderful start
that I can't bear to see her
penalized for our bad luck.

\$ Her school costs approximately
2400 - the first part is due
about October 1 and the second

installment in January. I am asking for this only on a loan basis, provided you will be patient enough to give us time to earn it and get it back to you.

You may wonder why I haven't gone to Betty for this. He has never shown the slightest interest in my girls. Susan will be 16 next week and I don't believe he has seen her a dozen times. I have been deeply hurt by this. Of course all this "entre nous."

Please don't be hard on me - I'm so low I can't take much more.

Love from us all
Betty

67-12 Yellowstone Blvd.
Forest Hills, N.Y.,
August 11th '57

Dear Laura Jane

at least all this time I've been getting this dusty household in order. I have had the pleasure of remembering the beautiful times we've had with you. For which I can never thank you enough - mostly I believe because I love meeting new people and am so delighted that I come away, as in the case with you, knowing I've left a friend behind.

Sherman's schedule for his road travels are never defined much in advance, so it remains indefinite about when he will be home this fall, anyway you and I will get together when you come to town. Let me

know in advance, please.

Larry is in Boston and came home last weekend. He was so sorry he missed our last visit, and don't be surprised to hear him phone you whenever he gets into Minnesota. Will have our Inquirer developed by this next weekend when I hope he comes home again. Sherman's birthday is Sat the 15th and I'm preparing a surprise party for him.

I had such a glorious month that I find it hard to come down from the clouds and settle into the monotony of "everyday" household problems. I sort of ease into it, instead of plunge in.

I like knowing Pauline & Ed take good care of you, they're really sweet, and do. Remember me to them. Hope my fruit cakes are made early enough so you can take home some for them.

Thanks again for everything. Love
Gene. I love to remember so many sweet things from you while I am here.
affectionately
Dorothy P.

Village Presbyterian Church

Thirteenth Street (East of Seventh Avenue) New York City

CHURCH OFFICE

139 WEST 13th STREET, NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

Tel.: WAtkins 9-4868

REV. JESSE WILLIAM STITT, D.D., Minister



June 1, 1959

Dear Friend:

It is with deep sorrow that we advise you of the death of Janet Stitt, the beloved wife of our minister, Dr. Jesse William Stitt.

Mrs. Stitt will be in repose at the Stephen Merritt Funeral Home at 22nd Street and 8th Avenue, New York City. Friends may call on Wednesday, June 3rd from 1:00 until 10:00 p.m. and on Thursday, June 4th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The funeral service will be held in the church sanctuary on Thursday, June 4th, at 8:00 p.m.

The Board of Elders

Sept. 17, 1959.

Dear Laura Jane,

I would appreciate so much
to enroll Maxine Theis and her
cousin Mary Backowski in your
fall schedule of piano lessons.
If possible can they both come
the same day for lessons.
The girls are anxious.

We sincerely appreciate
your time and patience giving
lessons to our girls. They've learned
a great deal in such a short time.

Many Thanks to you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ed Theis Telephone 26113

Mrs. John Backowski " 24382



LORENZO DI CREDI, "Madonna and Child with
Angel." The J. Paul Getty Museum

Only about 4 miles up the coast

Dear Laura Jane:

I am loving
fun much more
fascinating card.

The sun is shining
on it now & I have
just discovered the
roasties on top the
church steeple

With love and best
wishes for the new year

Dagmar Vernon



ALIENS MUST
THEIR ADDRESS
DURING JANUARY



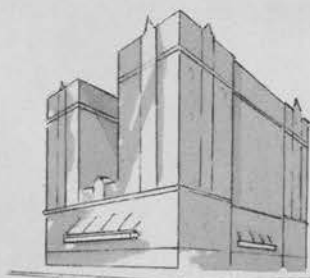
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS



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Mrs. Laura Jane Murrer
Little Falls

Minnesota



CLARK H. JONES
MANAGER

Hotel
GARY

"WHERE FRIENDS MEET"

400 ROOMS
400 BATHS

Gary, INDIANA

Feb. 6, 1959

Dear Laura Jane,

It was nice to hear from you yesterday. But I am sorry that you were calling about something that was disturbing you. I have written Mr. Simonette as you requested, and personally hope that he will be able to quiet down any difficulties.

I do thank you again, both for Van, myself, and the others, for the wonderful hospitality you gave us! It was indeed a joy to us all, and I hope you were not personally too inconvenienced.

My congratulations on presenting so successful a concert. I understand this was the largest audience ever to attend a legitimate performance in Little Falls. I hope it will be

THE HOOSIER GRILL • THE DUNELAND MURAL ROOM • THE SAND BAR

- over -

succeeded by many other events
equally as successful.

Again my deepest appreciation and
heartiest congratulations.

Sincerely,

Yours

Charles K. Winter
Community Concerts Inc.
113 West 57 St.
New York 19, N.Y.

P.S.: Please remember me
to Ed. okw.

[1959?]

Miss Musser - Dear Laura,

I didn't like to disturb
you - but I am on my
way to Mpls -

Will be at daughter's
7225 Green Valley Road -
Mpls -

(J.R. Youngdale)

So if you are coming
for Symphony Luncheon
Feb 4 - (I sincerely
hope you do) It'll be so
honored to have you
as ^{my} guest -

Thanks - for seat
reserved was perfect

The Concert Super -
Super Marvellous - and
I would love to have met

him personally.

You are to be
Highly Commended
on your successful
Concert
Everyone speaks so
highly of you.

My room was fine
Saw 4 of our
Crookston men
on way to Legislature
to urge a junior
College in Crookston.

Well I hope you
can read this -

OK.

Got a member from
Brazier at Concert
last eve to (Thosson)

Sincerely
Mrs E. W.
Emm. Putzier Johnson

U.H.
727 N. Duff
Brainerd, Minn.



Miss Laura Musser
Little Falls
Minnesota



January 26, 1959

Dear Miss Musser:

Thank you for the greatest
musical feast that has been
experienced -

Sincerely -
Mrs. A. R. Hastings -

All the best things in
life for you as we
enter into the 1960's.

As ever

Love Halger

December 31, 1959

[New York City]

Dear Laura Jane.

How nice of you to think
of me at Christmas with
such an exotic gift. The
Topaz Cologne is lovely
and its spray such fun
to use. Many thanks.

You never cease to amaze
me! When I received
your Card (such a
beautiful one) with your

message, I shared it
with Mr. Lawder. That
left hand does very well
indeed. Must be the years
of piano practice that
trained it so well.

Glad to know your
right hand is coming
along - Hope it will
be completely fine
again in short order.

MRS. HILDING E. HULTKRANS
407 SOUTHEAST THIRD STREET
LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA

Jan. 30, 1959

Dear Laura Jane,

At last, Friday, and time to write you how I feel about the Van Cliburn Concert! I loved every minute! Van has gained in power. How wonderful it all was. Thanks to you, again, I had another most memorable occasion.

Bertie was so glad she could attend the concert. She arrived here at 6:15 P.M., still in her occupational therapist uniform, flew into other clothes, had dinner, and then to the high school.

Cynthia and I had so many relatives and friends coming

MRS. HILDING E. HULTKRANS
407 SOUTHEAST THIRD STREET
LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA

that we spent several days
wondering how we were going
to be able to see them all.
School, choir for Cynthia at
6:45 P.M. Wednesday were part of
the agenda, of course. Our
planning was partly for
nothing as the broken
leg took care of that.

I have just come from seeing
Cynthia. She is wonderful. She was
in great pain the night it happened.
The result is uncertain, she
most likely will have to have
surgery as it is a very bad
break; both bones are broken,
a spiral break and some muscle
damage. One thing is in her
favor however, she is young and

she is in good health.

Cynthia showed me the lovely pink azalea you sent her. It is lovely, and it was most thoughtful of you when you are so busy.

Best wishes to you
and again, many thanks.

With affection,

Ruth E. Hultkrans

P. S. My sisters loved the
reservations they had.
They are grateful to you
for the good selection.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

Mrs. H. E. Hultkrans
Little Falls
Minnesota

Dear Laura Jane,

Cynthia and I were so
sorry to hear about your
accident and the surgery
which followed. We trust
that your hand will be
well as soon as possible.
We have P. T. A. tonight

so I must be on my
way. (We will see you soon.)

Best wishes,

Affectionately,

Ruth Hultkrans

P.S. I was sorry to hear about
Little Jane Hultbner's accident
too. Edgar has our sympathy ⁱⁿ
I understand he was away at home.



First Congregational Church, Little Falls, Minnesota

Wednesday

Dear Laura Jane,

It's been a long time since I saw you last, but I do think of you quite often which is why I decided to write. It has always been my intention to call you when I come home, but usually I get to Little Falls only two or three times a year, and never for any length of time, only a few hours.

We have four lovely children now, which we are very proud of, three boys - Billy, Tommy and David, and one girl, Lynn. My boys are really boys, but my little girl Lynn, is as dainty and sweet as any little girl should be. I've often told her about you and all the good times we had and the things you did for us children. That of course is something I'll never be able to repay nor will I ever forget.

Mother stops in occasionally and I never fail to inquire about you. Of course Ed stops in when ever he has an opportunity, which makes us happy, as it's always a pleasure to see him. I've always thought he's a swell fellow, even if he is my brother.

I suppose you've really been busy with the holidays so close and the shopping to do. Right now we have a young family which really makes Christmas interesting. The children have already mailed their letters to

Savita Claus, and are anxiously awaiting him. Billy is 7 years old, Tommy 6, Lynn 4 and David 1½. I have the two boys in 1st. and 2nd. grade now. Lynn won't be able to start until she is 6 years old.

I certainly wish we could visit together sometime as I'd love to have you meet my family. I've told them about you and showed them where you live.

It would be nice if you could stop in sometime when you are in St. Cloud. This invitation stands for anytime. Laura Jane, as you will always be welcomed in my home.

May this letter find you well and happy and may you have a very merry and blessed Christmas, as well as a wonderful year to come.

As ever,

Margaret Huebner Golden

June 8, 1959
[Minneapolis]

Dear Miss Musser,

How have you been? I haven't seen you for quite a while.

I'd like to invite you to a recital I will play in very soon - I think it will be Wednesday, June 17th. It may be changed but I'll let you know. It's a concerto program - I have to play the Tchaikowsky Concerto in B^b minor (the first movement) with the Mac Phail Orchestra. I would be very happy if you would come. I know it won't be anything near to the recording Van Cliburn made of it - but I've been practicing very hard & I'll play it the best

I can. I'm not the only person on the program - there will be about 5 or 6 besides me. Will you come if I let you know the exact date?

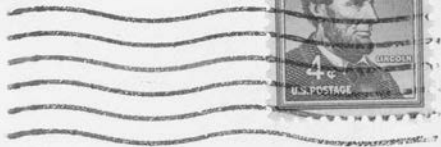
Maybe sometime I can come to Little Falls to see you on

a weekend if you're not busy.
I must close for now. Please
let me know if you can
attend the recital.

as ever,
Judy Graf

P.S. It will be in the MacPhail
auditorium.

B. Green
Little Falls, Minn.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

Dear Laura Jane:

It is once more that time of
the year when we sit down
with our basket of beautiful
Christmas and New Year greetings
and really love them — and
respond! Thank you again for
your exquisite card. I hope
and I and the children see

your in wishing you a year
filled with every happiness
you have wished for. We know
how busy you must be with
the plans for the next star
event you are making possible
to Little Falls. Again our
hope everyone understands this
good fortune.

Sincerely,
Vera Green

Thank You

Mrs. Margaret England
1528 - 6th Ave. No.
St. Cloud, Minn.



Miss Laura Jane Messer
Little Falls,
Minn.

Dear Laura Jane:

It's been so long since we've seen you. I know you're very busy and we had a very busy summer.

I heard from someone that you had started a program for the Cerebral Palsied at the Hospital. That's wonderful and I'm so anxious to see what you've done. If I come up some day soon could I take you down to the Hotel for lunch? Maybe we could go to the Hospital Together. I can call you long distance when I know what day I can come.

We saw your picture in the Sunday paper last week and so we cut it out to save it. It was such a nice picture of you Laura Jane and I liked your dress. I liked your dress time.

Write if you have time.

Hallmark
Gems
Margaret

Air Mail



Miss Laura Jane Mueser
608 Highland Ave.
Little Falls, Minn.

33
 168
 357
 149
 276
~~20~~
 157
 1107

856
 276
 640
 383
 157

1524
 1107
 467

B. Mohs
 11131 So. Vermont
 Los Angeles
 Calif.

Dear Laura,

11/15/59

I just have one long time trying
to do any letter writing.

Your very nice Xmas gift arrived
safe & sound. I found, E. Long. Olsen
is my favorite cosmetic so it just
couldn't be anything but perfect
for me. Pam gets a big kick out
of her bath capsules & uses them
at every opportunity, they're deple-
ted. She loved the gift. Thanks
you again.

I am sorry to hear you will
be unable to make a trip here in
Feb. I gather from your letter that
someone is interfering with your
financial status. Just who is it
this time?

Did you receive the sweater
Pamela sent. It was very little but

we hope next time it will something much nicer.

I see you are again sponsoring Van Clybourns Concert. Hope I am spelling his name correctly but believe I got it. He's a very fortunate young man to have such a friend as you. I'm sure he is a very fine person.

But I am doing very well. I make my last payment on my car this month. We also have new furniture for our living room, or rather ordered & will arrive the latter part of this month. My plants are growing like mad. I may have that interior jungle yet.

Pam has grown even since you were here. Her dresses are way above her knees. So now

week ends I'll have to see again.

I'm happy the Holidays are over & back to the old routine. I'm fighting the battle of the bulge since.

I had the flu also & what a mess. I never seem to be sick but when I do I make up for it in a big way.

Must get Pam off to bed I find something for her to wear to school tomorrow. I do hope by now things have straightened out so you feel free to do what ever you wish. Take care of yourself Laura & write when you can. Hope we do get to see you soon.

Love

Dee

Thank you again for the lovely gifts.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSOULA

May 18, 1959

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minnesota

Dear Laura Jane:

I don't believe I have had the opportunity to thank you as yet for the lovely Christmas card which you so graciously sent. That was indeed thoughtful of you. Though we have not been keeping in touch, I do see Helen Gillespie twice a week and she keeps me up-to-date. I hope you are having a pleasant spring there in Little Falls.

I must tell you that while in Spokane a few weeks ago I met Mrs. Cliburn. We were both there to judge for the Greater Spokane Music Festival; she judged in piano, of course, and I in organ. We had a nice chat; she is a lovely, charming person. I only wish that I had had more time to spend with her. She made me promise to greet you for her!

Unless I am mistaken, Helen mentioned that you had inquired in one of your recent letters as to the name of the organ man in Minneapolis whom I recommended to you before. His name is D. Byron Arneson, and his address is 120 North Meadow Lane, Minneapolis 22, Minnesota. He is very good.

You will be thrilled, I am sure, to learn that Elin and I will be going to Europe for study next year. At the personal invitation of Pierre Cochereau, organist of Notre Dame in Paris, we will spend most of our time in Paris where I will, of course, be his private music student. Also, I hope to do some traveling and I even have some hopes of getting to study with Karl Richter in Germany and possibly some one in England as well.

In order to ease the expenses of our trip, particularly the trip to New York in the fall, I have today written several letters to potential sponsors of recitals. It is my hope that I can "play my way" out East in the fall. Is there any chance that Little Falls might be interested in a concert, say, on Sunday evening, September 6? I will be at the organ at St. Mark's Cathedral every Sunday from August 2 through September 13; at that time we leave on our playing trip out East. We sail on the "Liberte" on September 30. It would please me greatly to see you again and play for you. To each of the above-mentioned potential sponsors I have made this offer: 1) a \$125.00 fee, or 2) if the sponsor will assure good publicity coverage, I will simply play for a free-will offering. If you or your Congregational Church would be interested in this means of supporting my venture while gaining musical pleasure, I would appreciate hearing from you soon. And if not, Elin and I will be sure to stop in Little Falls to see you this summer anyway! Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Westenburg

RICHARD WESTENBURG, ORGANIST

"Mr. Westenburg displayed a talent for recital playing which is all too rare. It was gratifying to hear a recitalist who could put across his program." (Pipenotes, official publication, Minnesota Chapter, American Guild of Organists.)

After extensive background in piano and only six months formal organ study, Westenburg, then only 17, appeared for the first time in public as an organist playing the great 5-manual organ in the Minneapolis Municipal Auditorium before 4,500 listeners. Also during this first year of study, he appeared several times on a regular series of organ recitals over Radio Station WCAL and was regular organist for a Sunday morning program on Station WLOL.

The Peformer's Prize was awarded by Lawrence Conservatory of Music to Richard Westenburg as the graduating senior with the most outstanding talent for public performance. He was also soloist with the Lawrence Symphony Orchestra and Choral Society.

"Westenburg is as good an organist as ever (worked) in the interest of art, and surely this is not the last Lawrence audiences will hear of him." (Appleton, Wisconsin, Post-Crescent.)

For five consecutive years, Westenburg was invited to be a solist on the Sunday afternoon series of organ concerts at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark in Minneapolis.

"Westenburg has a pronounced feeling for the depth and dignity of the organ and a good sense of rhythm, as well as a fine musical imagination and sense of color in registration." (The Diapason, official journal of the American Guild of Organists.)

Richard Westenburg's professional experience has been varied:
Organist and Choirmaster at First Congregational Church in Minneapolis, from 1954-56.

Assistant Organist and Choirmaster at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark, Minneapolis, from 1952-58. (Work limited to summers, 1957-58.)

Summer Minister of Music at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church, Minneapolis 1956-58.

Summer Session faculty, University of Minnesota, 1955-58.

Instructor in Music, Montana State University, 1956-

Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church, Missoula, Montana, 1957-

Degrees:

B. Mus. from Lawrence Conservatory, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1954.

M. A. from University of Minnesota, 1956.



richard westenburg



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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents

RICHARD WESTENBURG, *Organist*

RECITAL HALL

Sunday, January 19, 1958

8:15 P.M.

I.

Now Thank We All Our God *J. S. Bach*

Two Movements in Chamber Style *J. S. Bach*

Andante (from Sonata No. 1 in D Minor for Clavier)

Vivace (from Trio Sonata No. 6 in G Major for Organ)

Fantasy and Fugue in G Minor *J. S. Bach*

II.

Three Chorale Preludes *Ernest Pepping*

"Kommt und lasst uns Christum ehren" (1901-)

("Come and Let Us Honor Christ")

"Mit Freuden zart"

("With Tender Joy")

"Erschienen ist der herrlich Tag"

("The Splendid Day Has Appeared")

— *Intermission* —

III.

Variations On A Noël *Marcel Dupré*

Theme Vivace (1886-)

Larghetto Canon at the Fourth and Fifth

Poco Animato Vivace

Canon at the Octave Canon at the Second

Vif Anime

Fugato et Presto

(over)

Scherzo (from Symphony No. 2) *Louis Vierne*
(1870-1937)

Le Banquet Celeste *Olivier Messiaen*
"He who eats my body and drinks my blood (1908-)
dwells in me and I in him."

Transports de Joie *Olivier Messiaen*
"Outburst of joy from a soul before the Glory of
Christ which is its own glory."

"Giving thanks unto the Father which hath made us meet
to be partakers of the inheritance of the Saints in light
. has raised us up together and made us sit together
in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."
(Colossians and Ephesians)



Saint Helena Cathedral

Golden Jubilee Celebration

Organ Recital

April 16, 1959 8:15 P.M.

Richard Westenburg
Concert Organist

I

- A Baroque Suite (arr. Westenburg)
 Rigaudon (from Idomenee) Campra
 Largo Marcello
 Toccata (from OEdipus a Thebes) ... Mereaux
 Sinfonia (from Solomon) Handel

The term "Baroque Suite" suggests a group of dance-like pieces of contrasting character written in the Seventeenth and early Eighteenth Centuries.

- Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland J.S. Bach
 "Come New, Savior of the Heathen"

- Dorian Toccata J.S. Bach
 In the "Dorian Toccata" we hear a magnificent work of tonal architecture in which we can clearly follow the addition of every musical span.

- Clair de Lune Vierne
 This composition is the work of Louis Vierne, the blind organist of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.

- Ronde Francaise Boellman
 Leon Boellman was the organist of the church of St. Vincent DePaul in Paris.

II

- Prelude, Fugue and Variation Franck
 Aside from his organ music, Cesar Franck wrote relatively little. Of his twelve larger organ compositions, the most familiar is the "Prelude, Fugue and Variation".

- Intermezzo Bonnet
 Joseph Bonnet is one of a host of early Twentieth Century French organists who played much and played brilliantly. "Intermezzo" is written in a style which is intentionally shallow.

- Litanies Alain
 "When the Christian soul in distress no longer finds new words to implore the mercy of God, it ceaselessly repeats with a vehement faith the same invocation. Reason attains its limits. Only faith pursues its ascension."



Sponsored by Cathedral Choristers under the direction of
 Father R.J. Hartman

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

OF MINNESOTA

FIFTH STREET AND EIGHTH AVENUE S. E. - MINNEAPOLIS 14



WESLEY CARL EWERT
Minister

MRS. HARRY DEIMAN
Minister's Assistant
(*Emeritus*)

MRS. PHILIP W. PORTER
Director of Music

DONALD JAMES SEVETSON
Associate Minister

MRS. HAROLD C. DALAKER
Church Secretary

MR. EMIL ROTH
Sexton

This Church is affiliated with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, the Minnesota Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, and the World Council of Churches.

GERAIDINE BRADEN, Soprano; RICHARD WESTENBURG, Organist

in joint recital
assisted by GEORGE HOULE, Oboist

Friday, January 23, 1959, 8:30 P.M.

I

O MAGNIFY THE LORDHANDEL
(from Chandos Anthems, No. 8)
Soprano with organ

O LORD GOD, HEAVENLY KINGVIVALDI
(from Gloria)
Soprano with organ and oboe

II

A BAROQUE SUITE (Arr. Westenburg)
Rigaudon (from Idomenee) Campra
Largo Marcello
Toccata (from Oedipus a Thebes) . . . Mereaux
Sinfonia (from Solomon) Handel
("The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba")

FANTASY AND FUGUE IN G MINOR J. S. Bach
Organ

III

HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THEMHandel
(from Messiah)

REJOICEHandel
(from Messiah)
Soprano with organ

INTERMISSION

IV

CONCERTO NO. 5 IN F MAJOR Handel
Larghetto
Allegro
Alla Siciliano
Presto

DORIAN TOCCATA J. S. BACH
Organ

V

MY SOUL SHALL REST IN JESUS' KEEPING. . J. S. BACH
(from Cantata No. 127)

OH, RIGHTEOUS GOD J. S. BACH
(from Cantata No. 89)
Soprano with organ and oboe

Thurs
after school

Little Faces Minus
September 25, 1959

Dear Miss Musser:

You will be available for
a music lesson any day
at 4 P.M. or later.

If I have written to you
before on this, please
excuse me, as I'm a
little absent minded at
times.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Eleanor Adelmeyer

Little Falls, Minn
[Postmark Sept. 25, 1959]

Dear Miss Musser:

Jon has asked me to write to find out whether or not he can take lessons from you again.

Will you please let us know? As I work, there is never anybody home until after 5 P.M. but if you prefer you can tell Louise Tanners and she can let me know at work.

Our telephone number is 2-5509.

Thank you!

Mrs. E. Adelmeyer

July 26, 1959

Dear Mrs. Musser

We were so terribly sorry to have broken our date with you at the Curtis Hotel, but no doubt it was delayed reaction to the preparations and excitement for so many months in advance of the performance and then the final effort which caused the migraine headache that day. I do apologise.

We haven't heard of your coming to the Cities since but trust that you will call us if you have the time available on any of your visits. We insist on taking you to lunch or dinner when you come.

Finally collected are the

publicity releases written for
the Co. This year and the critics
and the most impressive newspaper
articles that appeared.

Your interest has been so
heart-warming - just to talk
with you is to bring hope for
so many future artistic
enterprises in Minnesota!

With affection

[*] Anna & Lorand

Andaluz

P.S. Programs, brochures, critics, etc.
following in Manila envelope.
A.A.

[* Ballet School in St Paul]

Andahazy



*Mrs. Laura Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minn.*

Mrs. L. Andahazy
459 Macalister
St. Paul

February 9, 1959
St. Cloud, Minn.

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls, Minn.

Dear Miss Musser:

I have been contemplating writing this letter to you for the past several days & I am surprised at myself for even having begun it. It is perhaps the boldest thing I have done in my life. I have dared myself to do it and, because it is being written in the interest of others & not for myself, I am presenting this problem to you.

Your name has been publicized very much recently in connection with the Van Cliburn recital in Little Falls and I have become curious about you & about your relationship with Van Cliburn. I was able to attend his recital ~~in~~ Little Falls on January 28th & I considered it a privilege & a rare treat. I believe he is truly a sensational artist. I saw you at the concert & at that time was curious to know about you. I saw you again at The Civic Music concert in St. Cloud last Sunday afternoon & again at the reception after the concert. I became more anxious to know about you. I know for certain

that some of the things I have heard are true because I have learned them from people who know you well. I have been told of your musical ability, of your extensive traveling, of your extreme wealth, & of your generosity. And now I have come to the point of why I am writing this letter to you.

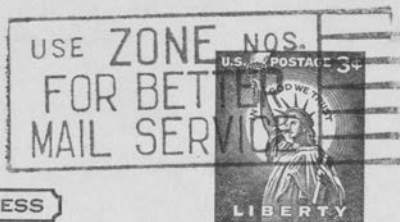
I am writing in the interest of people whom I consider to be close friends & who have become very dear to me. They are music directors & instructors at St. Mary's Grade School in St. Cloud. I feel that my knowledge of the finer things of life is quite limited but I am very anxious to know a deeper appreciation & I will continue to try to broaden my education of the musical field. I believe we have very fine choirs at St. Mary's because of the well trained instructors we have. The main choir of the Parish consists of men & boys who are being trained by Mr. George Carthage. Mr. Carthage came to St. Cloud from New York City several years ago & has had schooling at Boston College & Julliard. Sr. Mary Helen is also a very fine teacher & is most ambitious. The Choir room is furnished with a Grand piano that is badly out of tune & beyond repair. I cannot understand how they can teach & keep their patience with an instrument

that is soo bad. I am sure you are aware of how important it is for them To have a good piano. The school does not have the funds to meet this rather urgent situation. I have been told that you have given pianos as gifts thru Weber's music store in St. Cloud. And now you know the purpose of my letter. I have wondered whether the statement about your extreme generosity could be true & I have written to you with hope that it is. You must think I am terribly blunt for approaching you in the way that I have &, as I stated in the beginning of the letter, I would not be doing this if ~~it~~ ^I didn't realize how important it is to others.

If anything should come as a result of my letter to you, may I ask ^{that} you never mention my name. I would be very happy to visit with you if there is anything you would like to ask me about. If my attempt in writing to you avails nothing, then you will know that I have satisfied my own conscience in doing what I was able to do.

I am grateful to you for taking the time to read my letter.

Very truly yours,
Rosemary Borgert
903-9th Ave. So.
St. Cloud, Minn.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Laura J NUSSEER,
Little Falls
Minnesota

Sept 23.

MRS. HALE N. BYERS
4448 Upton Avenue South
Minneapolis 10, Minnesota

Dear Miss Neuser:

Mrs Crumlin has referred
your letter, regarding
our United Nations Rally
Meeting, to me as TICKET
Chairman.

The price of the workshops
and luncheon - with
Miss Anderson is \$2.75.

If you will send your
check to me - I will
be glad to mail your
~~TICKETS~~ for our October
7th Rally - please let
me hear as soon as possible
as we are expecting a
sell-out!

Very Truly yours.
Mrs Hale Byers

AIR MAIL



Miss Laura Jane Musses -
Linden Hills -
Little Falls. Minnesota

From Brother

128 Cw. Th. So. New York 19.

Dec. 6, 1959

Dearest Laura Jane, -

Oh! What a dreadful accident you had. You poor dear. Thank you for having Ed call me twice. That was very thoughtful. I am so glad an operation was not necessary - but, of all things, your finger, as a pianist.

What you must have gone through in shock and agony. Ed said how brave you were. You were wise to get home to your own doctor, and home surroundings.

But we are so sorry not to see you again, though we are glad to have had that evening together. What a shame that your vacation was interrupted. Oh dear - how unfortunate.

We had few, talking to Rev. de Vries.
we? Your experience is another witness
of the importance of land insurance.

I have something I got you in
service - I'll be sending it along for
Christmas and I hope it pleases you.

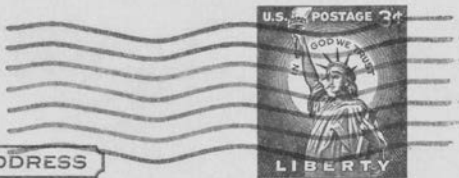
Thanks for saying you'll add
to the beautiful Florentine frames
for my piano. You spoke me
with the Tebaldi one - and it so
perfectly matches the Madonna on
the wall in a Florentine frame.

You said you wanted dimensions.
The tetrads frame stands 15 inches high
and is 12 inches wide. The glass in
the frame is $11" \times 8\frac{1}{2}"$. The celebrity photo
are usually $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ and I leave a mat around.
Well, enough? Please let us know how you progress.

Margaret Englund
1528 - 6th Ave. No.
St. Cloud, Minn.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Miss Laura Jane Messer
Little Falls,
Minn.

Dear Laura Jane,

I feel so bad that we haven't been able to get together for so long. I guess you were away quite a bit and we were at the lake for 3 weeks and also took a trip west with all the children. We took in over \$13,000.00 on the C.P. drive and a few townships haven't sent in their money yet. It takes quite a while for a total figure. We can't expand as much as we would like to this year but we did grow from last year and that is important. I hope to be able to drive to Little Falls with Phil sometime before long and hope we will find you home. It will be nice to see you again.

Best regards,

Margaret

D

Norma Desir
147-34, Village Rd.
Jamaica 35, N.Y.

Dear Aunt Lottie,

I received your beautiful gift from Hawaii and was very pleased with it. That outfit was simply adorable and I couldn't wait to try it on; but when I did the blouse was perfect & the hat; but the pants were too tight! They were in a size 14, which is too small for me in pants. I take an 18 in pants, but can take a 14 in blouses.

I was so disappointed that the pants didn't fit me, because it was such a cute outfit.

My Mother thought she could let the seams out, but there wasn't enough material; so there was only one thing to do, send them back. I didn't want to part with the whole outfit and only sent the pants which didn't fit me, back, all the way to Honolulu.

When my mother finally brought them
to the postoffice she had to pay
about 68¢ to send them back.
Now I have been waiting for them
each day, for almost a month
and I still didn't receive my
much waited for package.

I am writing you this letter to
thank you very much for the
kind thought, but to also ask you
if you could possibly try to get
in touch with the store you
bought the outfit from, and see
if they received the parts and
can return them in a larger size.

I am dying to wear the whole
outfit, (I have been wearing just
the blouse from it, and everyone
adores it), and hope that I can
soon. For we will leave for the
Catskills in July (4), to stay at
our home up there for the summer.
Thank you very much,
Love & Kisses, Norma
xxxxxx

Our Lady of Lourdes
Little Falls, Minn.
(1959?)

Dear Miss Musser

Do you mind if I address you Laura? Since our pleasant visit we feel and speak of you as our friend. Sister Coronata and I found the visit with you just so nice. Your kind reception of us and the help you gave us financially is deeply appreciated by the both of us. We are so glad that because of your purchase we can help our Convention in our small way. We just marvel at the friendly way in which you entertained us and gave up your afternoon.

There is no way in which we can recompense your kindness but by giving you a small gift. We are giving it to you with our love. I thought you might like a tatted one, so I began at once to tat the lace. I did want to

make you a blue one, because
I think you like blue, but I
had no blue goods on hand.
The president (Sister Remberta) of the
College ^{of St. Benedict} was here last week-end
and we told her how grand
you were to us. She was
interested because she and
her Sister Companion are
directly engaged in the build-
ing Committee. Laura, you would
enjoy seeing what I did one
week. I sewed pencil pouches
only a hundred. We had gotten
some zippers from St. Paul, and it
took some thinking as how to use
them. So pouches were my decision.
We are trying to get a \$100 together
so we can turn that over to
the building fund. Maybe after
a few more gas-coon sales we
will attain our goal.

Now, dear, be happy in
your lovely home and may you
be happy because of your charity
to those who need it.

We are deeply appreciative
Sister Doris Irene

Riverwood
Route 4
Little Falls
Sept 21, 1959

Dear Miss Mysser

I would like to take piano lessons.
I'd prefer Wednesdays if possible. Please
call Audrey DeRosier Me 2-8621. C of Sylvia
DeRosier

Thank You
Audrey DeRosier

Little Falls, Minn.
April 8, '59

Dear Miss Mussie,

I was unsuccessful
in contacting you by
Phone so decided to
write.

A friend told me you
give organ lessons. And
I was wondering if you
would give our daughter
some. She is Dorothy,
15 $\frac{1}{2}$ yrs, a sophomore. She
has been asked to be
assistant organist at
First Lutheran once in awhile
this summer. She plans
to start piano lessons
in June. She hasn't been
able to cause where we
live we couldn't have
a piano. She took piano
several years ago.
I would appreciate

hearing from you.
I met you couple yrs.
ago at a bazaar at
First English Church but
you probably wouldn't
remember me.

Sincerely.

Mrs. Whitton Foss

THE REV. PHILIP E. GREGORY
903 MEADOWLARK LANE
LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Oct. 27, 1959

My Dear -

A friend sent us a cutting from the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune about the Symphony Music boosters, and we delighted to see your picture and to know of your appointment to the Board of the Orchestral Association of Minnesota. This is a real honor for you, and I think the Association honors itself in electing you to its Board. We are really proud of you & know that you will make a very worth-while member of the Board. What pleases me no end is to know that you are bringing such honor to the Musser name & family. How proud your mother and father would be of you in knowing that you now have

THE REV. PHILIP E. GREGORY

903 MEADOWLARK LANE

LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

II

the opportunity to use your excellent knowledge of music, and your good mind in the world of music.

We have been home now about one month and are glad to be back again in our little Paradise - by - the - Sea. ☺

I have been invited to serve as interim minister at the First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara, but have declined because it would mean living up there temporarily.

I shall be preaching for a few Sundays at the First Congregational Church of Burbank, that, as you may know, is adjacent to Hollywood. Harriet recently had some surgery on her foot, and was

THE REV. PHILIP E. GREGORY
903 MEADOWLARK LANE
LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

III

in the hospital for four days. She is now home again & the painful bunion condition has been removed. However, she can't wear a shoe yet on account of the bandage. I have been the housekeeper, cook, nurse & shopper. It is indeed a high privilege to be her servant. She is still the sweet and lovely person as of yore. Time marches on, and we're not getting any younger, but we go on in usefulness & happy life. We are standing on the prow of the ship with the flags flying. The joy of life is in anticipation and work, rather than in mere remembrance & idleness. Harriet joins me in sending our fondest cherishments. May Heaven bless you!

Always yours
Philip

Tuesday
May 12th

Dear Lotsie,

There are a myriad of things to continually crowd out the culmination of a keen desire to write to you.

Through the years I have continued to love you for your own dear sake - not for what you possess. (The Bible warns us against covetousness ... "Take heed and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possessed." Luke 12. 15.)

By the "write-up" in the Mpls. paper I see your concert was a grand success. I know you were relieved as it was a great deal of responsibility for you in the arranging for the big event. No one who has not known this type of obligation can appreciate what is involved to cause things to unfold smoothly.

Since our school term has ended at the Indian Bible School, John has been in Canada

and I have been making preparations for our summer's work.

at present my folks are staying with us as my father is helping Byron and Floella finish their house. When it is completed my folks plan to live in their basement. (Mother says to tell you "Hello".)

Perhaps by this time your piano students are beginning their summer holidays. At present, I have only two pupils, High School students, who are just in the first grade of music.

Do you plan to travel or stay at home this summer? I suppose you have been arranging your many flower beds. They will be lovely as usual, I know.

Harmony in music is essential for a satisfactory rendition. Harmony in garden planning is gratifying to the eye. Harmony in our lives means peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, who died in our stead that we, accepting His substitutionary death for us, might enjoy eternal life with a Holy God.

With love and prayers,

Hazel

Mrs. John C. Goodrich
1117 - 4th St. S.
Bemidji, Minn.



Miss Laura Jane Mussler
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

Sept 22, 1959

Dear Miss Musser,

I would like to have my two daughters, Linda and Barbara, take piano lessons. Linda has been taking lessons from you but Barbara, age $7\frac{1}{2}$, will be a beginner.

My telephone number is ME 2-5510

Thank you.

Sincerely
Mrs. Warren Sammon

September 18, 1959

Mrs. John Bailit
303 1st St. N.W.; L. 7.
Ph: 2-5181

Dear Miss Masser:

I would like to enroll my two boys
for piano lessons for the coming year:
John, 9 y.o., your student of last year and
Andy, 7 y.o., a beginner.

If possible, I would prefer that they both
have lessons on the same day.

I certainly appreciate your willingness to
teach the children again this year and am
most thankful for it.

Sincerely,
Mrs. John Bailit

9-30-59

8:30 A.M.

Dear Laura Jane,

As I sit here with my second cup of coffee, I almost have to pinch myself to make myself believe that I was there.

Needless to say, Natalie and I enjoyed every minute last night and want to thank you again for making it possible.

Natalie got up and went to school anyway although she had my permission to sleep this morning, if she

chase to do so. She has to
take a college aptitude
test this A. M. so I gave
her a cup of strong coffee
to keep her awake.

I will get in touch
with you over the weekend.

Affectionately,

Margaret Fortier



INFANTILE
JOIN MARCH OF DIMES



Miss Laura Jane Musser -
Linden Hill -
Little Falls -
Minnesota.

From Brewsters
128 Cen. Ph. Co.
New York 19

January 25, 1959-

Dear Laura Jane -

Thank you for remembering
us again at Christmas. You
are always thoughtful and loyal.
We shall enjoy the perfume
of course, but especially as
evidence of your unchanging
friendship.

How are you? Busy?
I hope you received the Venetian
Lantern in time for Christmas.
I think the Venetian leather
work is very beautiful, don't you?

Any news of Van?
You know, I am very hurt.
He has not said one word to me.

since his Moscow triumph, -
and he had professed such devotion
for twelve years! Do you think
his head has really been turned?

We hope you are getting ad-
justed as time goes on - to the
loss of your dear father. When
are you coming to NY again?

We both send fondest love,
and every good wish for 1959. Ever the same,
Dorothy -

Thank You

[1959?]
Dear Laura Jane.

I am so sorry that
I didn't see you before
you left for the east.
I did call Sunday nite
and Pauline said you
were packing, so I didn't
want to bother you. I
told Pauline that I
would drop you a
little note.

Hope you had

a good trip out and
that you will have
lots of fun.

We had snow
last night and my
boys were thrilled to
see it. As for me I
could get along very
nicely with out the
snow. They played in
it almost all after-
noon. They sure were

Cold when they come
in. I didn't take Susan
out as I thought it was
a little too cold for her.

I am still trying to
get settled and I hope
it won't be much more
it is such a job.

Pauline was over
for a little ^{while} ~~short~~ this after
noon and she is fine

I hope we will see
you when you are back
home. Love from
Loo & Love Sunday.



IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS

AMES, IOWA

12/22/59

RADIO-TELEVISION SERVICE
WOI • WOI-FM • WOI-TV

Dear Laura Jane;

I have just returned from a busy day at the station and while sitting down listening to Haydn's String Quartets, Op. 1, I have come across a rather interesting idea that may or may not interest you. I remember that you are constantly interested in the arts and those affiliated with them, in whatever shape or form it may take. I'm am right in this, I hop? Anyway, while sitting, and perusing Lord Byron (what else), I had an idea concerning the counter-part of the R.Schumann "Davidsbundler" sort-of-a-thing. Do you get a little of what I'm trying to say? I'm sure there are some young acquaintances of your, Van is an instance, that would (I take great liberty in proposing this), be interested in meeting once a year in a symposium (a stuffy word, to say the least), to discuss, propose and do (this is the most important) something for the arts in America.

I am tentatively considering the prospect of making the field of communications my profession. And in that capacity I will have (I hope), the opportunity to further or disparage the cause of music, arts, drama or whatever in this country. And this holds true for whatever region that I'm currently employed in. Now the point of this whole thing is this: there would be combined the numerous talents rampant in this country dealing with the arts: music, drama, literature, poetry, theatre, and movies. They would be sponsored while holding this meeting so that the worry and concern of material things would be negligible. And I can think of no one who would more perfectly suit of the role of a sort of "organiser" for this sort of thing than yourself. I'm going to be perfectly frank Laura Jane, you have the means to enable some of the young talent in this country to realise a collective effort. I say "collective", because this would not be a pursuit of "self-aggrandizement", it would be a group effort. And, don't get me wrong, I don't mean "togetherness ". One of the prime principles of this group would be self-expression. I hope that this has found you in agreement. I am not mistaken, I hope, when I remember you as an apostle of self-expression and self-motivation, ever since meeting you I have had a great deal of faith in people, like yourself, who place taste, integrity and principle above all else. I sincerely hope that this idea of mine can have more than a little chance for existence ~~within~~ within each of our separate minds.

I am driving home over the Xmas holidays and if time allows, which I doubt, I shall try to make a side-trip to Little Falls and renew our friendship, that has been dormant these past months, due to other obligations. I am very happy that our cocktail party pleased you so much, I know that our friends were equally pleased to make your acquaintance.

By word of passing, the young lady that was your host (Peggy?), has now married a man from the Mpls. "Star", and they are very happy liveing in Mpls. It came a sort of a blow to me since we were seeing each other most of last winter. This is the stuff that life is made of, and I'm not immune to having to receive my share of it. Only it makes it a little harder to become acquainted with another all over again. You know the old story about being burned onnee and not wanting to be burned again..? Whatever, I have found something to keep me occupied in my radio work and I hope, in this new venture of ours.

Laura Jane, I want to tell you with all sincerety, that if this sounds like just another "cock-and-bull" ~~story~~ story, please tell me where to get off. I wouldn't say anything that would be met with hostility on anyones part, but after considering your personal philosophy (as much of it as I can remember at this long distance and after such a long time of persoanl separation), I somehow felt that you may be interested. If you're not, don't hesitate to say so. But somehow, I have a vague feeling that with the right personnel, this thing may be able to get its feet of the ground. I have some suggestions, if I may be so bold; in films, Tab Hunter (an up-and-coming young film star), in music Van, in theatre, Anthony Perkins, I don 't know the fields of literature of drama as well, but I know that you may have some names that you could contact. This would be along the similar lines of the MacDowell Colony (in Maine, is it?), where artists are allowed the freedom to think and create for no other reward than their own conscience. Why not make Linden Hills another meeting-place for the arts, only for young men and make it more diversified. Excuse me, it would not be excluded to only men, there are creative women around, I'm sure. (My burn is showing again.)

If time allows, please give this "crazy" notion some consideration and give me your answer either way. I won't be disillusioned if you reply in the negative, but there is a vague chance that it could work with the right cooperation, don't you think? Either way, please write, when your arm gets better, not before.

Sincerely,

David C. Caster

[Detroit, Mich.]

January 11, 1959

Dear Laura Jane,

First, let me thank you for the lovely Xmas gifts. Laurey is just thrilled to death with her very own "perpume". I wish you could have seen her the other day. She decided she wanted to wear Johnnys Davy Crocket hat outdoors, so there she was, Coon skin hat with a pink scarf over it to keep her ears warm, and reaking to high heaven with "Daisy's Don't Tell", she had just discovered how the cream sachet works, and had smeared it over herself like it was hand cream! She becomes quite annoyed with her brothers, because Mike sniffs her and says "Pewwwwww", and Johnny tells her she "stinks pretty". Now that the novelty has worn off, she uses it a little more frugally, and only on special occasions.

I simply adore the Cologne, Perfume, Dusting Powder, and Sachet, you sent me. I feel absolutely luxurious with everything matching. Its the first time I've had such a luxury. The scent is absolutely gorgeous, I've never used it befor, but I think I'll become a steady customer. I love perfumes. I find if I wear a little all the time I feel much better, somehow it has a sort of tranquillizing effect on me. I think I should do some research into that theory, a good title would be "Scent and the Senses", what do you think?

Your little namesake is certainly a charmer! She comes up with the cutest observations. The first time it snowed this year, she said she liked snow because it had noise in it. I didn't quite know what she meant until we went outdoors, whereupon she pursued the matter, saying we should oil the snow because it makes noise when we walk in it. Today she came up with another cutey. She was watching the dust floating around in the sunlight, and she asked me if the dust had little wings and faces. She has a fine imagination and has a whole colony of friends (imaginary) around here.

she even makes up their own names, I mean really makes up names, e.g. Trinsy, Litsa, Nella, and Pintsy, each one is very real to her too. She has a cute little song she made up too about the "Angels in Heaven Eat Bananas". I could go on and on but you might think I'm prejudiced, really the boys are just as cute, but in a boys way. I do hope you will be able to visit us this spring. She talks about Aunt Laura Jane all the time, I guess she thinks its quite something to have someone with the same name she has. She remembers someone walking with her around the "Bathtub" (as she calls it) in church, and whenever she goes to church she is sure to point it out and tell whoever is around that she had a bath in it.

I was so sorry to hear about your broken finger, I hope it mends quickly. Please excuse my lousy typing, its as bad as my writing I know, but it does seem to go faster. I do regret not having taken shorthand and typing in school. I'm glad you liked the plate. I had your house in mind when I picked it out, I know how you love to hang pictures on your walls.

My family has been quite well this year so far, which seems a near miracle to me after all the sickness we've had the last two years. I was beginning to think that I had the sickliest kids in town. I know tho, that it was due to the fact that we are so isolated here that Johnny never got any of the usual childhood sickness, even colds, until he started school, and then, not having the antibodies, he was prey to every bug that floated his way. This year he's only missed 2 days of school, and I haven't even had a cold. There is so much flu going around now tho that we are sure to get something pretty soon. My little Mike has to have a hernia operation in the next week or so, and how I dread having to send him to the hospital. I have postponed it as long as I can, and now I'm only awaiting a call from the surgeon telling me when to bring him in.

You have seen my mother since Xmas so she probably told you all about Shirleys baby. I have only seen him once but he's a real cute little guy. Shirleys husband has been ill practically all winter with infectious mononeucleosis. He had a serious relapse while she was in the hospital. She called me yesterday tho, and said that he had some more blood work done and that he was better, He still is running a low grade fever tho, ~~add~~ as he has been for nearly a month. She is living in Northville, a little town about 15 miles west of where I live.

I saw the letter you wrote in Time Magazine last spring (in spite of the mis spelled name, Norma Condos happened to notice it also, and brought it over to me). I wonder If you could tell me your opinion of the "American Mercury" magazine. I picked up a copy of Dedember '59, the first time I had ever read it, and was absolutely shocked at the anti-semitic theme of practically every article. I am in the dark as to whether it is merely a scandal sheet, or a truly crusading magazine. This past year we have had quite an experience with crooked politicians, and Jewish pressure, trying to confiscate our property here. John isn't quite the schmoo they thought he might be and so far they haven't been able to get what they wanted. It is a very long and interesting story and far too complicated to go into in a letter. After our experience tho, I'm inclined to think that the current anti-semitic demonstrations aren't the work of juveniles and pranksters, as the newspapers would have us believe, but of a population that is fed up with the cheating, conspiracies, and monopolies they have created. I know some Jewish people who are the very finest, God fearing people you could ever want to know. As a matter of fact John says there are only two people in the world he could absolutely trust, and both of these happen to be Jewish, its horrible that they have to suffer the stigma placed on them by these Zionists. I just finished reading 'Exodus' which was a very long and plodding

book, but ~~very~~ interesting and enlightening at times. At least I learned a little of what motivates the Zionists. I have never read much of the Bible, as is usual for Catholics, but one of my New Years resolutions is to start to study particularly the old testament. I think I would be better off like most people to stick my head in the sand and try not to understand what is going on in the world, there is too much greed and ugliness.... a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

What has Van Cliburn got against Detroit or Michigan for that matter? I'd drive 200 miles to hear him but he just hasn't been anywhere around! Little Falls doesn't know how lucky they are. How I'd love to be there to see Anna Russel, She is just the funniest thing I have ever heard. What is Philippa doing these days?

Please write soon and tell us when you will honor us with a visit, I hope a nice long one.

Love,

Bernadine [Zak Kargul]