

Mrs. Martin W. Lentz

220 So. HOLYOKE -- WICHITA 8, KANSAS

June 17, 1945.

Dear Laura:

Thanks a lot for this insurance; I am enclosing the policy herewith, so that this will be in Colorado by the time you arrive from N. Y. You may wonder about the address on this policy; I found out I could not write this, for a Colorado address, and when I explained that you may not be able to establish a residence for nearly a year, they suggested that I just use my address, as I would always know where you were; They understand what the situation is, and it will be alright, and you will have protection; if anything should happen, just write me at once; I do want to call your attention to the clause in the policy that your equipment is covered only in U.S. and Canada, so when you go to the Yucatan, you will have no coverage on the equipment that you take along with you there; You will possibly take only a minimum of equipment down there however, will you not, and will take extra good care of it. I remembered that you took a small camera with you there before.

Mitchells and Borngessers were over here last evening, so we almost had a camera club meeting; they are planning on going to Colorado about the 1st of August, and may stay at the same camp where we have stayed, west of Leadville. We are writing for them for rates, and to see if they will have a cabin available for them, etc. Ray says they want to stop and see you; I told him I was not sure whether you would be in Colo. Sprgs, all summer or not, I did not tell him what your plans were, as I thought you would want to tell him, or possibly you might not want to tell him of your book plans; In other words I do not like to repeat things unless I know that you want them told; so if you hear from him, or write him, you will know that I said nothing.

We are thrilled to hear of the success you had in N. Y. ... it sound like such an interesting program, that I am positively envious; I wish that this travel situation was such that we could meet you in New Mexico, and have a little time with you; This is what we had planned you know quite a while back, but it looks like we will have to do it in some distant future, for we just can't travel yet this year, can't take any chance on losing our B book, due to needing it in business. And your trip to the Yucatan sounds good, altho it doesn't appeal to me as much as the New Mexico trip. I know you must be anxious to get to work, who wouldn't be under the circumstances, you are sitting in the lap of the gods, I believe.

Have you given up the idea of color work temporarily? You didn't mention it in your letter, so wondered what you had decided about that?

I believe the paper situation is easing up a little, we are getting along fairly well, and Everett promises us some 14x17 this week; he thinks in a couple of months there may be plenty of paper; I want a new enlarger so badly, I think we may get an Omega ... we have made lots of enquiries, and the only thing against the Omega is the chance of scratching the condensers, but we would use more care than either Boeings or the Army; I have a cousin who is a Wac in the photo division, and she likes the Omega, except for that same thing; but she feels that ^{one} used in a home dark-room we would have ^{no} trouble, like they have in the army. She also uses a Salzman and an Elwood auto-focus. Some of our friends in other cities have Omegas and are crazy about them ... so it is a toGs-up; will get one as soon as available ... these Solars are so slow, they drive one nuts.

We are wondering if John Keller has left New Mexico; Ralph was down there a week ago, and had written John to meet him in Santa Fe, but he never showed up, neither did he answer his letter, which is not like John; He may have quit this gov't job, Ralph has not heard from him for some time.

Beech and Cessnas have laid off from 2000 to 3000 employees so far, and will lay off about 3000 more within 60 to 90 days, so the paper says, due to cut-back in orders; this has also affected many smaller places here like machine shops etc; the housing situation has eased considerably too. Aero Parts has closed down, suppose you know that ... many machine shops have closed down, Boeings are not curtailing yet I think, but the boys said last evening, they didn't know how soon they would be, and know there is a possibility that they may be laid off if and when it comes; DARN JAPAN.... why don't they quit, and let the world settle down, It gives me the shivers when I think of invading Japan proper.

I think Truman is showing a lot of good judgement don't you? I am a little surprised at the strength he is showing, and yet it is what we so hoped would happen; it is a novelty to have some one from our own grass-roots as president, and I think good for the Nation.... Altho I voted for Roosevelt twice, I couldn't see eye to eye with him on so many things, time only will tell how he will go down in history; he did many good things there is no doubt about it; Truman has the chance of making a hero of himself now, so we are hoping he will do well, and let the nation know that the mid-west can furnish people as smart as the Easterners.

P.H. Oelman had another eye operation at Mayos just recently, and it was not a success, and he is almost blind, I hear; Woodbury from Okla City, says he understands he can't see over 3 feet away; They had asked him to judge their next salon, but are not sure now, they think they will have to replace him; He was to judge with Crossett & Fruth at Milwaukee this fall too, so he probably will not get to go there.

We, here in the South-west, are planning a PSA Council, such as the New England states have; there are some benefits to such a council of camera clubs ... Atwater was in Okla City 2 weeks ago, and helped them to make the plans, it would include Tex. Okla. and Wichita, would be the farthest North I imagine, keeping it within a radius of about 500-600 miles.

I understand there is some rather nice scenery about 125 miles west of here, and a cabin in a park available in that vicinity; we think we will go over there and stay 3 or 4 days about July 1st; Harvest should be in full swing at that time, and we know some people at Greensburg, that would direct us around to some of the spots they think we would like; he does commercial photography; that is about as much vacation as we will get; Right now I am busy canning, and putting stuff in locker; my garden is super-swell inspite of the bad weather we have had, more string beans than we can eat, so I am canning a and 3 pts at a time.

Didn't think this would turn into such a long letter, but I never know when to quit, keep in touch with me, if you don't have time to write letters, as I know you will be busy, drop me a card at least once in a while, always anxious to hear from you.

As ever,

Blanche