

Mrs. Martin W. Lentz

220 So. HOLYOKE .. WICHITA 8, KANSAS

July 23, 1945.

Dear Laura:

I feel very droopy today, but my conscience has been hurting me something awful because I have not answered your letter which we received while at Bowles Ranch. We were so busy taking trips and shooting film while there, that I only wrote 4 or 5 cards; We had such a little time, and so much territory to cover; we really had an awfully good time, but were somewhat handicapped in not having our own car there, one doesn't feel quite so free.

We had a miserable time getting out there. Carl had 3 tires recapped, thinking he was all fixed up, so started out from here driving from 55 to 65 miles per hour; Martin knew it was too fast, but there wasn't anything we could say about it; The first blow-out came just before we reached Dodge City; We lost an hour & half there getting a 3-rd grade tire; \$ 10.50 for it & highway robbery, but that was the ceiling, so take it or leave it ... that slowed Carl down to about 50 miles per hour, the next blow-out came near Syracuse, and we couldn't get another tire there, and drove to LaJunta after dark, with only 4 tires; The next day was the 4th... so we had to wait around, and finally got a man out of bed, and he was cross of course, but finally opened his shop, and sold us 2 old tires, which we hoped would take us thru.... That slowed Carl down to 40-45 miles per hour; then we went over Independence Pass, which is high and wash-boardy, and awfully hard on tires....and just 10 miles away from Bowles Ranch we had a 3rd blow-out (this time, the old tire we bought at Dodge; it lasted just 550 miles)..... By that time Carl was really scared, and worried; You know he is rather easy going, and nothing much worries him. The next day after we got there, we went down to Glenwood Springs, and by pulling some strings, one of the local men got him a new tire. That brought us back to Wichita without any further trouble, but incidentally Carl drove 40 to 45 all the way back.

One is taking their lives in their hands when they travel now, believe me; old tires, etc ... We should all stay home, I know but we are getting tired of doing that. In spite of the trouble, we didn't let it dampen our spirits, and we really had a nice time. I believe I applied some of the knowledge which you tried so hard to beat into me when you were here, and I think my negatives will show it. We didn't pot-shot at everything in sight this year, but tried to do a few certain things and do them better than before. We got back to that old deserted ranch again, in the morning this time, and the light from a better angle, and since the subject is very flat, very little range of tones, I underexposed and overdeveloped my negative, and I seem to have a much better negative that we have ever been able to get there; I have developed only a few negatives so far, but they all seem to be reasonably good. Am anxious to get on the rest of them, but have been too busy, and wanted to print out some of them before doing all of them so if I had to shorten or lengthen the development any, I could do so.

Geo. Hoxie has not returned thru here as yet, at least we have not heard from him,... if we do see him, we may ask him to serve here on our jury, as we are at our wits ends who else to have; the transportation difficulties may play havoc with our salon this year; I have an acceptance from D. Ward Pease from Chicago, and if he cannot get

rail transportation, he will come by plane; if he starts early enough to allow for bumping off at Kan. City, he will be O. K. George might have to come the same way too, but do not anticipate too much trouble that way; We wish we could get some entirely new person to serve here with you and Mr. Pease this year, but I feel that you and George will work well together, as you seemed to agree with him pretty well last year; I am in fear and trembling of getting some weak "Sister" on our jury, and that is the reason we are afraid to try some one else. If any thing should happen at the last minute that one person can't get reservations, then we have that to worry about, that is getting a substitute. If there were only some one here in town, a good portrait man for instance, on whom we could fall back. Jack Goldberg has the best reputation here, but he might be a wash-out in helping to select a salonIn years to come when transportation gets in better shape, I am going to try to get people from both coasts, who might be going thru here, or near. Your suggestion of Ira Martin is good; Fred Archer of Los. Angeles has been recommended as good, also Helene Sanders, There are so many, if it were possible for us to reach them, or they reach us, perhaps I should say.

I have been canning a lot since I got home, and last Saturday nearly laid me out, at least I have felt sort of sickish ever since. I canned a half bu. of string beans, a large carton of frownsweet cherries, shipped from Calif. (however I was disappointed in them, and they were so high priced too) also made 6 half gallons of dill pickles .. plus some ironing ... I was worn out, when night came, but everything always piles up on me at once, didn't know I was going to get all this stuff in one day. My garden has been nice, and I canned 35 pts of beans from it alone; tomatoes will be ripe in a few days.

Mitchells & Brongessors go out to Bowles Ranch in a couple of weeks; Mrs. Brongessor has never been in the mountains, and we have her half scared; we have all filled her full of the wierdest stories. We by the way saw a bear this time when we were out there; It came loping across the bridge onto Bowles property, and skirted the river for a few yards, then went up into the hills; there was a lot of excitement around there, for many of us had never seen a bear in the wilds before, and of course they look so much different, and give you a different feeling running around loose that way.

In re-reading your letter, I find you were leaving Colo. Springs by the 20th, so you may not get this for a long time, sorry to have been so neglectful in writing before this; We didn't go thru the Springs, and Carl couldn't seem to make up his mind definitely when he would start back, and how he was going until too late to write you.

I am glad for you that St. Louis bought your Lupin Leaves; It is a nice honor to have ones print in a permanent collection; I wish that you had time and the inclination to do more exhibiting, but I know you are busy, and it does take a lot of time, then too some of these salons are being chozen by people who have no more knowledge of photography than I have and you know that I haven't enough to serve on any jury ... that is what we are trying to guard against here, but suppose as time goes on we may have occasional to regret some member of a jury, lets hope it won't happen very often. I don't like the politics that has entered into many of these salons, but since it happens in all sports, we can't make the world over.

When you have the time, write me a line, always glad to hear from you.

as ever.

Blanche

(OVER)

Since our Entry blank may go to press before
too long - will you let me know if you
can now use the A.R.P.S. after your
Name. I believe you said they re-instated
you, but want to be sure. Doesn't make too
much difference, but it adds a little prestige
possibly. Blanche