

Mrs. Martin W. Lentz

220 So. HOLYOKE .. WICHITA 8, KANSAS

Aug. 19, 1945.

Dear Laura,
this is to keep you up on the latest developments, even tho we haven't heard from you. I am hurried, so excuse any mistakes I may make in my haste. We have just had an acceptance from Geo. Hoxie; He is thrilled at being asked back, and to work with you; he likes Ward Pease too, so we should have a nice time here come February. The dates have definitely been set as follows in case I haven't already told you. closing of entries Feb. 4th, judging Feb. 9-10 ... hang show Feb. 17th thru March 3rd.

St. Louis is thinking about juries, and George Green wrote they are about fixed up; however he may not be certain yet as to how he can work things out; He wanted to know if I thought you would serve there; and also wanted to know if you would be on our jury this year; since you will be, it may make some difference to him, as last spring we talked about the advisability of having the same juror on both our shows; Also they are having John Doscher this year (he couldn't serve last year you remember at the last minute) I don't know how he will be. George seems to want him, even tho he said he has written "Some nasty letters" to quote George. George wants us to come over to visit their salon judging, which we may be able to do, now that things are straightening out. I have given George your address, but warned him you were out of town most of the time, and it might take a long time for a letter to reach you. I told him as far as we were concerned, we thought it would be nice for you to serve there even tho you did serve here, but he may have another feeling on it. Jack Peabody is to serve there too.

Jack Peabody has been elected chairman of the pictorial division, for which I am glad; I think he can fill this post better than any one has shown any inclination to do in the past, he has some good ideas, and if he puts them in practice, I think he will make a good chairman. To start with he is going to put out a booklet on " How to run a photographic Salon" He hopes it will be beneficial to all new salons starting up, and help some of those already in existence that are being badly managed. He asked me to give him a complete description of how we manage our salon with the small amount of help that we have; and said he found that our was the best managed salon with limited help of any he has ever seen ... (goody for me!!!) I thought this a real compliment ... so I wrote him a complete story of how we started our show, the problems we had to meet, writing it from purely an impersonal point of view, for instance as if I were answering some ones letter asking me for advice. It must have been just what he wanted, for he wrote back that it was even better than he had anticipated ... so I am more than happy; he will give us some credit in the foreword of the booklet for the help we have given, this should help our salon in the future. He will also write up a salon that is managed by some 30 people as his is done in Chicago.

Hasn't the news of the past 2 weeks astounded you ? I can't believe it yet? I think you got out of Boeings at a very strategic time... for they are letting their help go pretty darned fast right now; They let 5600 off Friday I understand, and those they want back they will rehire at a less wage than before; so far Plant No. 2 will continue on the present contract of the B29 for balance of August and Sept. and then plans are indefinite after that... Ray and Barney were gone all of this

time of the excitement, they celebrated last Tues. evening in Denver, and got back here Thursday evening. They may be out of a job before long.

I suppose this Atom Bomb plant in New Mexico is where John Keller has been these 3 years; Ralph Eaton wrote him 3 or 4 months ago, and wanted to meet him in Santa Fe, but never got an answer to his letter, neither did he meet him, so we are all wondering where he is now. They certainly kept that secret well, believe me. I wonder if you had any inkling at all of what was going on ... I never wanted to ask you, for I knew it was none of my business, but we were all naturally curious about where John was; thought maybe you might have known... You must have been in New Mexico only a few days after that trial or test down there Were you anyways near the territory, where this plant was located?

Ned Crossett wants to know when your book will come out, and who is publishing it? He will want a copy, and I thought possibly we might give him a copy, as we did in the case of your other book. We will also want a copy, and if the price is not much more than the other book, we might also get a copy for Jack Peabody. Both of these folks have been extremely nice to us, and we may be able to repay their kindness in a very small way, with something of this sort ... it will not repay them, of course but it will be a token of our appreciation, and there is so little one can do for a person in their financial positions.

Now that we can get gas, we are going back to Meredith for the hunting season ... we will leave here about the 20- to 25th of Sept. to be there and located before the season open on Oct. 6th. Will return to Wichita about Oct. 15th possibly. If you do not receive this in time to answer until about those dates, the address will be as before... Diamond J Ranch, Meredith Colorado. We will pack out for the hunting season, and stay until we get our game, but Delbert will bring any letters up to us, while in camp; he usually comes up every 2 or 3 days. Our friends, The Danners, may go about the same time, and pack out with us, depending on the plans of their boy who is in the navy, and has contract Rheumatic Fever; he may be realised, so they are waiting some definite word regarding him. We should have a lot of fun.

We have worked up some of our pix, taken out there; I have one of 2 old barns, that I think you might like; I got a dandy negative on it, plenty of detail in shadows, back lighted, think I will ^{enter} it in our show here. Also now have a better negative on that old ranch up there, with the winding road. Martin got a nice print from around Woods Lake, which may do him some good. He has several new pix now, and is doing better in the shows than last year.

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If you have a scene in which the lowest reading is around 50 on evergreens or tree trunks etc, and the highest is around 800 on the sky, and there fore you want to expose fully for the shadow area, and underdevelop, where would you put the arrow on your meter; I tried ~~fixing~~ setting the arrow midway between the 50 & the 800, then allowing about twice that much exposure, and thought surely I would have plenty, and could shorten my development to about 12 min. instead of the usual 15 with Finex, but in some cases did not have quite enough exposure for the shadow area, and yet the sky was dense ... this one thing has given me more trouble than anything else, and I have experimented and experimented on it, but can't quite seem to get it right. I have a theory that if I could give it enough exposure to cut the development to about 2/3 of the normal time, it should be about right,... maybe I am going at this wrong, can't seem to get it thru my noodle for some reason or other. Overdevelopment in Finex gives a lot of fog on the negative. Have you tried the new Microdol? I like Finex, and am used to it, is one reason I stick to it.

OVER.

Do not know whether we will go thru the Spring either going or coming or not, but if you will be in town around about that time, would like to know - as it might be possible we could see you. If Wanners drive out, we might go at the same time, so if either of us had the trouble we could help each other. So at lot will depend on them.

Guess this is all the news.

As ever.

Blanche.