

Mrs. Martin W. Lentz

220 So. HOLYOKE -- WICHITA 8, KANSAS

Oct. 7th, 1945.

Dear Laura:

I have your letter of Sept. 17th, and fully expected to get it answered long before this, but this has been a busy season for us, just the same as all the time .. we never seem to get thru.

I was rather disturbed about your statements regarding ~~xxxxxx~~ the possibility of your not being here, ^{especially} on top of the fact that John Keller had been thru here only a few days before, and told Ralph Eaton he didn't think you would be able to make it... I had not told Ralph all the plans you had made, so he thought he was telling me a lot of news, and I assured him that you had taken all those things into account when you promised to come here. Your letter sort of took me off my feet, and it worried me that maybe I had not made it sufficiently clear to you when the judging would be; I have just referred back to my original letter and find that I told you the dates would be the 1st or second week end in February, so you perhaps just overlooked this part in the letter. I hope that you will not be too upset, at any change you may have to make in your preset plans, as we should be very much disappointed ~~now~~ if we had to get another judge to take your place. The entry blanks have gone to press with your name on them, and we of course are looking forward to seeing you again, come spring. ~~winter~~

I saw Paul Bulla yesterday and he was asking about you. He went to the Springs rather suddenly about the time you were supposed to have returned from New York, and looked all over for you, but couldn't find you. I told him you would be back in the winter to see us, and help judge the show.

Your work must be intensely interesting; I envy you very much. Am anxious to see your book when it is out. I can imagine that you do have a tremendous amount of travelling; We have not had our tires recapped; Many who have done so, feel they would have been better off with their old tread; Carl's re-capped tires blew out very fast, and he was very disgusted, and others have told us the same thing; they will stand no heat or fast travelling. We are trying to make our ~~do~~ as they are until we can get new ones; they will hold out nicely with not too fast driving. We may run down into the Ozarks this month for a few days, providing the rains ever stop here.

We had another flood last week, but not as serious as the one in the spring of 44 & 45. They will eventually get our flood relief taken care of here; all tied up with red tape now.

We have a new enlarger!!!! Time will tell how we like it. Jeff got it for us; one of the special Omegas built for the Navy; It has fluorescent lighting, 2 sets of tubes, 1 set of 4 tube are blue or daylight, and faster than the set of white tubes; The thing is built much heavier and more sturdy than the regular 4x5 model ... Some like the Omega and others don't. This model I believe will make it more like the Salzman; Paul Bulla said he worked with the Salzman out at the plant, and he thinks we will like this; he said he hoped he could trip us, when we took it out of the store; He wants to buy a Salzman; Clyde Pate has one of the regular Omegas, and says it is too slow for him, others have them and are crazy about them ... Since no enlarger will do everything, we

made up our minds to take this one, and after we give it a fair trial, will tell you how we like it. Personally I think I will be crazy about it, but may be over-optimistic. I think we must have been very lucky for there are dozens of people waiting for good enlargers; there were only 57 allotted to the Chicago Broker for the Omega. They say it should sell for around \$ 400, but the price on the model with an Eastman Easel was \$ 285.00. It should be good, maybe we were chumps to pay that much. The general appearance of it is similar to the regular 4x5, but much stronger, someone said it was built like the Brooklyn Bridge, another said like an oil derrick.... It was a 9-day wonder at the store yesterday; It was earmarked for us, and no one else had a chance at it; ~~xxxxxxxx~~ We thought it was to be the standard incandescent lighting, so you can imagine our surprise when we found it had fluorescent lighting; we were dumbfounded, and hardly knew what to do, whether to take it or not... If I hadn't heard so much about the merits of the Salzman, we may never have taken it. *It has a masking device on it - not as far as I can see about every thing but a Chic Sale!*

We got to go thru Boeings after the war was over, they had open house for every one. Ray has been off for 2 or 3 weeks, and is temporarily at KPH, but is thinking about going to Kansas City, in charge of the radio for the Fire Department, where he was prior to coming here. He has had some other offers, but is undecided just what he will do yet. Barney is remaining at Boeings; he will continue at about the same salary he had been getting, would be in engineering, but the lab would be in that department; Barney is smart, and this has been nice for him; think he is very happy at the prospect of remaining; He has stumbled onto the DDT formula, and is manufacturing some of that, brokering it thru a wholesale house here, but the market is now flooded with DDT in many strengths, at all sorts of prices, different price every place in town. so don't know what he will be able to do along that line.

The Municipal Hanger caught fire and burned completely down, and 40 planes burned up too, we heard the explosions; they had quite a time. Think some sort of short circuit or something started it.

Don't know what jury St. Louis eventually decided on. haven't heard from either of the boys from over there recently. Houston had Ruth Canaday on their jury this year; They must have been desperately hard up .. we sent prints down there, wonder what will happen to them????

I told Ray you meant to write to him; I didn't tell him however what you said about the commercial end, etc; I know that he has been thinking a little of something photographic, but I ~~modded~~ when he mentioned it, for he is not ready for a studio or anything like that, at that tho he is better than some of our so called "professionals" here. Ray's print quality is improving fast, and he said the other day that he has suddenly become conscious of print quality. He has made up some prints and is trying his luck at salons, he has just sent to Milwaukee, the PSA, and will send to Minneapolis; I hope he will have some luck, it will do him a world of good, as it has done us so much; regardless of the "ills" of the present day salon exhibiting, and it has many ills, still it is a good proving ground, and I know our work has greatly improved thru that field; We both have so much to be thankful to you for too, for the big boost you gave us, when you were here; don't think we don't greatly appreciate it.

Am tired, and you must be now too after all this reading, so will close with the very best wishes, write when you have time, if you haven't time, just drop me a postal occasionally, keeping me posted about what you are doing, just the highlights, will help. we are always interested.

As ever,

Shuchie.