

Hutchinson High School

Department of Guidance

Hutchinson, Kansas

10-18-49.

ELIZABETH STAFFORD
Counselor of Girls

Dear Laura: -

What a Thrill it was to have word of you. I knew that you were working on the book for I got in touch with Brenda Putnam in N. Y. when I was there - Congratulations. I'm anxious to see it your picture is good you must be enjoying your present work.

How we would enjoy a long letter from you or better yet can't you visit us now that your book is published? We would love to have you any time.

you see by the enclosed clipping that I too, have a book. 1,100 kids did that! The book has not been dedicated to a woman for many years and you are supposed to be here for many years to have this honor. Since last year was my 2nd year here the dedication was not too well received by some of the old teachers nor by the administration but they had nothing to say about it - I mean no control over the selection of the dedicatee

Life in Hutchinson is rather dull and it would be most uninteresting if we didn't have so many rough times to surmount in making a go of a new business here. The old faithful just do not give a new business any encouragement - so our first years here were economically a loss. Sam is established in the chemical business now and our future looks good.

Past Christmas I sent a card with our baby's picture. Barbara Lee was born Feb 16, 1947. We certainly enjoy her. She is large for her age and has a vocabulary which is equal to most 4-year olds - She has my temper, poor kid. We call her "Binky". Mother takes care of her while I teach. Sam and I both go home for lunch and we have not taken part in many civic functions because we enjoy "family evenings".

I enjoy my work but it is work. I teach 2 hours a day and listen to their problems the rest of the day. Guess some day I'll "make with the typewriter" and get out a book. I hope that I won't be teaching next year. School hasn't been too easy this year for Barbara and I went to Calif this summer and it is harder to leave her now that she is so much fun.

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Then too she had a virus throat infection the 3rd week of school ^{this fall} as I was in the hospital with her from Sunday to Fri night. They thought she might have polio but thank heavens it was not. So now I fret about her tho' we live with mother and she takes such good care of Binky.

I see very few Boeing people. I visited the factory last Nov. but got only as far as Phil Beatty it seems that the factory is more protected now than it was during war years. Wayne Mellow has tried to establish a laundrette here but he lost his home and is out of the laundry business now. Erickson who was in purchasing is just opening a sports and crafts shop here — I guess no one has told him about Hutchinson.

Laura it is about time for class — I called a friend of mine at the Hutchinson News-Herald office about your book for I think many people in this area would be happy to know about you. Results of the call were

1. They would like to run an article about you and your book — your picture too in a book column written by Ernest Dewey — It is a good column and the newspaper has a large circulation in this area.

2. They would like to interview you
on a radio program about Books
sponsored by the News-Herald.

Do you want to send some information
to Mr. Newley or if you send it to me
I'll see that he gets it.

We have a Lands and People book study
club. It is interested in your work.

I showed your pictures of me in my hunting
clothes to the librarian and to the
language teachers (Spanish) They are
interested in your book too.

Well it is time for me to get to class
and show these high school girls
some pictures of Human Reproduction -
an excellent film -

If you are still keeping in touch with
our friend the Major Putnam give him
my regards - you know it was only because
I wanted a Binky that I didn't make
that trip west. It's I doubt that he
was ever convinced of that - So if he
ever writes that book about "Kansas"
I hope that he is kind.

Much love to you Laura and words
just can't express how thrilled I was
to hear from you and about your book
Sincerely Elizabeth Lee Stafford-