

Letters to Aunt Laurie From Nephews and Nieces

MUSICAL TALENT IS EVIDENT

From Infancy This Junior Has Shown Liking for Melodies

(First Prize)

Dear Aunt Laurie:

MY FAVORITE hobby is music. It seems to me I have always loved music.

When I was not quite one year old I liked to sit on the floor down beside my rocker and sing "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay" and even before that I used to rock my body back and forth as I sat on the floor to keep time if anyone was singing.

Before I was 3 I played tunes on the harmonica so well that mamma could tell the name of the song.

My next musical instrument was an autoharp, that my Aunt Florence gave me when I was 6. I had both my autoharp and my harmonica on the train when I came to California from Massachusetts the next fall and I used to amuse myself when I got tired of looking out of the window or playing with my brother.

The porter was very much pleased by my playing and liked to have me play "Yankee Doodle" and "Home, Sweet Home" for him. Mamma said she believed he was especially kind to us because he was interested in my music.

After we reached Los Angeles my father bought me a mandolin and I began to take lessons on that. Now I can read music very easily, so I entertain myself when I get lonesome. Sometimes when I feel cross I play till my heart is all full of music.

Later I hope to have a violin. My grandfather had a very nice one and told me that it was to be mine as soon as I could play it. So my next lessons will be on the violin.

ISADORE BROWN.
611 Manasquan avenue, age 3. Colegrove school, grade 4.

ENTHUSIASTIC JUNIOR

TELLS OF HER PETS

(Honorable Mention)

Dear Aunt Laurie:

EVER since I could walk I have always been very fond of cats. I had a beautiful white cat when in the east. When my grandmother and I decided to come to California I did not know what to do with it. Grandma said that we would have to give it away. When we arrived in California I soon found lots of stray cats, and I always picked them up, fed and petted them.

I had at one time about sixteen of them, and among them was a Maltese cat that I took special care of. One time I took it to a cat show and it won the second prize.

We let all the rest of the cats go on account of this one. We had it about three years and took very good care of it. When it died it had a real funeral instead of just burying it without a word, and I am sure every one in the house missed it.

GLADYS WATERBURY.
Sawtelle city school, grade 6H.

THIS BOY HAS COLLECTED FOUR THOUSAND STAMPS

(Honorable Mention)

Dear Aunt Laurie:

MY FAVORITE hobby is to collect stamps. One day I was playing with my playmate out in his yard, when I found a common two-cent stamp under a tree. I showed it to my playmate. Then he asked me if I had seen the new stamps he just got from Chicago, so I went in to see them. He had some from foreign lands. He gave me some stamps and told me to start a collection of them. I took the stamps home and put them in a cigar box and kept them.

As I was reading Collier's Weekly one day I noticed it said a stamp company would give foreign stamps for good American stamps, so I wrote and got one thousand stamps. I have been collecting ever since, and have four thousand stamps now. Your friend,

GEORGE CLARK.
Age 12. Logan Heights school, grade 5A. San Diego.

COLLECTION OF BEADS

IS FAD OF ONE GIRL

(Honorable Mention)

Dear Aunt Laurie:

FOR quite a long time I have been collecting all kinds of beads. I have six strings of braided white beads nearly two feet long, three strings of Indian beads, a long string of green and white beads woven together and a great many other kinds.



BEDTIME

WHEN FATHER WAS A BOY

First Prize—Lucille Davenport, 318 North Matthews st. Grade 10, L. A. H. S.

A lady in San Francisco taught me to weave the beads, and I have made several belts and given them away.
EUNICE JACKSON.
Sawtelle school, grade 6.

STAMPS AND POSTCARDS

Dear Aunt Laurie:
My favorite hobby is collecting stamps and postcards. I have now over 190 postcards and 140 stamps of rare kinds. I have stamps from France, Germany, England, Mexico, Belgium and Russia.

I sent away and got some very rare stamps for 25 cents. There were twenty in the packet. I have some Austrian stamps which I got for saving Bixby labels. I expect to get a good many more.

Now, as I have told you all about my stamps, I will tell you a little about my postcards. I have one album for my pretty postcards and one for my comic ones. I sent away and got a set of postcards on which were twenty-four different rulers of the world. Below it tells the area, population, products, industries and square miles of the countries. Most of them are of Europe. They are very hard to get.

CLARENCE SHEPARD.
Grade 5A. Age 11 years. Logan Heights.

COLLECTS BIRDS' EGGS

Dear Aunt Laurie:
Every bird season I always get a collection of birds' eggs. Lloyd and I went into partnership. We got about 300 kinds of eggs.

One day I went up to the Soldiers' home. I saw a rabbit, but he saw me and ran in a pipe. I told Lloyd to get at one end and I would get at the other. He got there to block the hole up and got a stick to punch him with. He ran out the hole where Lloyd was and got away from us. I quit getting eggs because it was cruel. Mamma said that it was not nice. The old bird would cry and maybe it would kill her to think of the loss of the eggs.

HUBERT BRYANT.
Of the Sawtelle City School, Grade 6.

DEVOTED TO BABY SISTER

Dear Aunt Laurie:
My favorite hobby is to play with my baby sister. I try to get her to walk alone, but she always falls down. When I take hold of one hand she will walk all over the house. Sometimes she kisses me, but she likes to bite. I can put her into the baby walker, then hide, and she will come and find me. When she hears music she makes her feet go like she was keeping time.

Sometimes when we ask her to say mamma or papa she will say something that sounds like I can't. One day she saw some boys quarreling and she yelled at them. When she sees a

horse or cow or a dog she makes a noise.

She thinks it is great fun to watch me play with her ball. She loves to take a bath and will splash, and sometimes she puts her head under the water, and that scares her.

MILDRED DOLSON.
Logan Heights school, A5 grade. Age 12 years.

IS FOND OF NATURE STUDY

Dear Aunt Laurie:
My favorite hobby is reading. I have been given a great many books and the woods is my favorite reading place.

One day I had a book; it was about robins and wrens. I happened to look up into the tree and there was a robin's nest. The old birds were flying around in great despair. After thinking a while I thought their young birds or eggs may have been stolen.

One of the birds flew to the other side of the tree. There was a young robin. In its attempt to fly it had fallen from the nest. I picked it up, went to the nest and tried to reach it, but found the nest too high.

I went to the edge of the woods and called my brother. When he came he climbed the tree and put the young birds back.

The robins were very thankful, for they sang their sweetest songs.

MAUDE SHIPTON.
11 years, 5A grade, Logan Heights school.

PLAYS TEACHING SCHOOL

Dear Aunt Laurie:
My favorite hobby is school. I expect to be a teacher. I don't know why, but I have always wanted to. On rainy days my friend and I go into the first grade room at noon and recess and get them to spell words and read. I have them try to read everything in their books. My friend has the A class and I have the B, so that we will not quarrel.

Of course they don't mind us like they do their teacher, but they mind pretty well.

Little folks work well because they enjoy it. I would not want any higher grades than the fourth or fifth.

GLADYS TURNMIRE.
Grade Sixth, Sawtelle, Cal.

COLLECTING FOREIGN POSTALS

Dear Aunt Laurie:
My girl friend was collecting postcards and asked her aunt in London to send her some. Her friend's mother sent her some comic postals, too.

When she was 12 years old she had over 1000 postals, and she is still collecting them. I don't know just how many she has now. ADDIS SHORT.
Sawtelle city school, sixth grade.

MAKES STAMP COLLECTION

Stamps of Many Countries Gathered by This Junior

(Second Prize)

Dear Aunt Laurie:

MY favorite hobby is collecting stamps. I have several Canadian stamps; some have pictures of King Edward on and some Queen Victoria. I have an Austrian stamp with a picture of the Emperor Francis Joseph on, a one-cent Mexican stamp, a one-cent United States stamp showing Marquette and the Indians on the Mississippi; one of the commemorative series of 1901, showing a large steamship representing fast lake navigation; a 1-cent stamp with Lincoln's picture on it; an 8-cent stamp with Garfield's picture; several 3-cent stamps of both Canada and United States; a 2-cent stamp, commemorative series 1907, founding of Jamestown; an internal revenue stamp from before the Civil War; a 10-cent stamp from Germany; one of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition.

I have several of the commemorative series 1904 with Jefferson's picture and giving the date of his birth and death, 1743-1824. I have a 2-cent stamp with the dates 1492-1892, showing Columbus in sight of land, and an 8-cent stamp with Martha Washington's picture on it.

I have a Cuban stamp of 1819, a Syrian stamp, a 5/8 proprietary stamp, a 2 1/2-cent revenue stamp, a Hudson-Fulton celebration stamp, a 4-cent stamp showing the fleet of Columbus, a 25-cent stamp of France.

I have a 10-cent stamp with Daniel Webster's picture on it and a 15-cent United States stamp with Clay's picture on it.

Now, do you not think I have a fine collection of stamps, Aunt Laurie?

I remain your loving niece,
LORETTA FRY.

1136 Crocker street, St. Joseph's school, age 12.

OUTINGS WITH GUNS

AMUSE THIS JUNIOR

(Honorable Mention)

Dear Aunt Laurie:

WHAT I like to do best is to go down to the Malibu ranch with some other boys and a rifle and go hunting. I got a rabbit and five or six quail the last time.

When we got tired riding we liked to lie upon the sand and watch for quail, rabbits or any other animal which was wild. I liked to kill and skin rattlesnakes, wildcats and coyotes. Their skins were so pretty and nice that they were made into rugs and ornaments.

When noon came we ate our lunch and shot at targets and dug big holes in the sand. After we were rested we cleaned our guns and got all ready. We got on our horses and rode home.

All of a sudden all the horses came to a standstill. We looked in front of us and there was a big rattlesnake. We all shot at it together, aiming at its head. I tied it to my saddle and we went on. We got home about 3 o'clock.

HENRY JENKS.
Sawtelle school, grade 6.

COLLECTS SHELLS AND STONES

Dear Aunt Laurie:

My favorite hobby is picking up shells and pretty stones along the beach. Every summer vacation I go to the beach. When I am through bathing I go along the beach and pick up the shells and pretty stones.

One day while I was walking on the beach I found a very pretty stone with something in it which looked like gold. I kept that stone for about two years and then lost it.

One day when I was tired of walking I sat down on the sand, and before I knew it I was asleep. When I awoke it was dinner time. When I had eaten my dinner I started to hunt for a shell, for I already found a stone. Before I had gone very far I found a beautiful shell of all colors. I kept that shell about as long as I did the stone.

RUTH LARSON.
Sawtelle city school, sixth grade.

TELLS OF FRIENDS' HOBBY

Fanny Olestrom, one of my girl friends, has a hobby for collecting postal cards. She writes to friends all over the United States for cards of scenery, flowers, comic cards and greetings which she keeps in albums. One time her aunt in Nebraska sent her a box of cards she had collected while there on a visit. They filled two albums.

Her mother went on a visit to Dayton, Ill., and while she was there she sent my friend two or three hundred