

Letters to Aunt Laurie From Nephews and Nieces

CLIMBED A FLOWERY TRAIL  
TO A CLEAR, COOL LAKE

FIRST PRIZE

Dear Aunt Laurie:

THE hottest day I have spent this summer was up in Ventura county. I was up pitting apricots at Baker's ranch.

It was too hot to pit, so we decided to go to Wylie's lake, which was ten miles away. We were up at 4:30 o'clock, had breakfast, which was cooked over a camp fire.

We finished by 5 o'clock, packed our lunch and started. We climbed hill after hill and saw the prettiest little brooks where there were tiny little minnows. I wanted to stop at every one, but the rest of the crowd didn't, so we went on. It took us over two hours to get there and nearly everyone was tired out.

I took off my shoes and waded, for the water looked so cool. But after awhile I felt the ground slipping under me, so I went back. We ate our lunch and then we thought we would explore a bit.

Some people say Wylie's is bottomless, for many people have been drowned there.

There are many little brooks about, but there were two I liked best. They were the largest. One seemed to be going into and the other seemed to be going out of the lake. I asked mamma what they were, and she said the inlet and the outlet.

We started home about 5 o'clock and got there about 7 o'clock. We sang songs till 9:30 o'clock, when we went to bed. Our bed was made of eucalyptus leaves with a blanket over them.

HELEN DEARING.

Casco street school, grade B7, age 12.

DONNED BATHING SUIT,  
SAT UNDER GARDEN SPRAY

HONORABLE MENTION

Dear Aunt Laurie:

As I lay there on the grass with the sun beating furiously down on me, it seemed as if I could go off some where and die (providing it was a cool place).

I tossed and rolled. I fanned myself vigorously, but to no avail.

Finally I got up and crawled off under the house, but as soon came out, for it was so close and hot in there that I nearly suffocated.

For a long time I lay there wondering what good heat did and why it was made.

Suddenly a bright idea struck me. Springing up, I rushed into the house and put on my bathing suit. I came out again and laid down, but I still was hot and perspiring.

For a long time I sat on the ground, wondering what I could do, when suddenly my eye fell on the house. Springing up, I attached the spray to it and turned it on.

It made a thin stream of water. Crawling under it I waited until I got cool and then I would get out and wait until I got hot again; then I would get under it again. Thus I passed the hottest day this season.

FRANK TOM HOWELL,

434 Crocker street, Boyle street school.

WON PRIZES FOR AGILITY

Dear Aunt Laurie:

I am going to tell about what I did on the Fourth of July. It seemed very hot to me, as I went to a picnic.

I had been thinking what a dull Fourth we would have without any fireworks, but I soon changed my mind when a few days before the Fourth we were invited to the Caledonian picnic at the Indian Village, not far from our home.

I got up early that morning and was ready to start at 8:30 o'clock. There were some neighbors who were going, so we went with them.

On arriving we looked around and saw the only totem pole this side of Alaska. There was a little hut built by the Indians in back of it, and in this there were four large idols. There were two mud houses, also built by the Indians.

We then went to the races. I went in the race for girls under 12 and under 16 and won a prize in each. The first was a fine bottle of perfume and the second a beautiful box of writing paper.

About 12 o'clock we had lunch. Then there were more contests. There was a bagpipe and Scotch dancing contest. The highland fling is very pretty.

About 4 o'clock we had another lunch and then went to where the people were dancing, and there was a dancing contest.

We came home about 10 o'clock, much pleased with the day's outing.

EVELYN WELDON.

652 South Workman street, age 12 years, Griffin avenue school, grade A8.

The Sea Shell's Song



Put the pretty pink sea shell  
To your pretty pink ear,  
And by listening well  
You, its message will hear:

For it will murmur to you  
As it murmurs to me,  
"Oh, I want to go back to my sea."

BATHING, BOATING, SKATING  
MAKE HOT DAY INTERESTING

HONORABLE MENTION

Dear Aunt Laurie:

MAMMA, papa, my brother and I had been planning where to go for a Sunday's outing. At last we decided to go to Long Beach.

The next morning we were all up early and we got there about 8 o'clock. We were going to my aunt's, so we went right over to her house.

About 10 o'clock we started for town. It was rather warm, so my cousins, my brother and I went to the bath house and bought bathing suits. We stayed in the water about an hour. Then we went back to my aunt's house and had dinner.

In the afternoon we all started for San Pedro. The water was calm and we had a pleasant ride.

After we were at San Pedro a little while we took the ferry to Shell beach. There we got lots of shells.

It was about 4:30 o'clock when we started to go back to Long Beach.

When we reached there we all got on the double whirl and had a fine ride. Then we each had a cornucopia.

After supper in the evening we went down town again and to the skating rink, and my cousins and I had a fine time skating.

We were all tired that night. We came home early next morning, though I wanted to stay longer.

Your niece,

IRENE WATRY.

Third street school, grade 5, Santa Ana.

EARNED PLATE OF ICE CREAM  
PLAYING TENNIS TWO HOURS

HONORABLE MENTION

Dear Aunt Laurie:

I DON'T really think that July 15 was the hottest day this summer, but I know it was as hot as I cared to have it.

The 15th of July was my friend's birthday. We went out to Sycamore grove. The park is greatly improved since the last Junior picnic. They have added a new playground and a tennis court. I love to play tennis, and so we took our tennis rackets and balls.

We arrived at the park at about 11 o'clock. After playing about for a while we went in search of the courts. We followed the railroad track and crossed the irrigating ditch and found what we sought.

We only played a short time, for dinner was soon ready.

After we had rested it was about 2 o'clock and the sun was pouring down on us like fire. That did not stop us, however, and my friend's uncle and I played for two hours.

After being partly baked and partly melted we decided to stop. In going back to the others on the lawn we were treated to some ice cream, which we wholly deserved after all our work.

On the hill where we went to take the car it was so pleasant that we thought we would miss the first car.

We reached home about 5 o'clock, hot and tired. Although it was not a very cool way to pass a hot day, we enjoyed ourselves very much.

Lovingly,

BETTY CHAPMAN.

1254 East Ninth street, Ninth street school, grade A8.

SPECIAL DRAWING CONTEST

Boys and girls of high school age or those who have already won a prize in the Herald Junior drawing contests are invited to submit pictures suitable for the front page of this magazine. Short poems, a suitable quotation or a joke may be taken as theme for this work. There will be no regular competition, but for each picture accepted and used a handsome Herald Junior pennant will be awarded to the artist.

Pictures must be drawn with jet black ink upon smooth, heavy white paper, must be 6 1-2 inches wide and not more than 9 inches deep. They may be submitted at any time and prizes will be issued upon publication.

BUILT CASTLE IN THE SAND  
TO AMUSE BABY SISTER

SECOND PRIZE

Dear Aunt Laurie:

THE day after the Fourth of July it was very hot. As I was lying in bed in the morning I thought, "Now today I must be as cheerful and kind as possible, for everyone will be tired and cross."

After we finished the work mamma said we might do as we pleased, but I think that is a very hard proposition some times.

I thought I would read my book, which a few days before had seemed very interesting, but it was impossible. I could not get seated comfortably in a chair and it was too hot to lie on the bed. After reading a few pages I fell asleep.

An hour afterward I was awakened by a terrible noise in the next room. I got up to see what it was and found that my small brother and sister were playing house. Such a sight! They had taken all the old clothes out of the store room and had strewn them on the floor in order to get what they wanted. The noise which awoke me was my brother endeavoring to lift a suit case, which was filled with old literature. In the attempt he had dropped it on his toe.

At sight of this confusion I lost my temper and felt worse than if I had not slept at all. To make amends I tried to get dinner, but the potatoes boiled dry and burned mamma's new aluminum kettle.

By the time dinner was over I felt so out of patience with myself that I did not know what to do. I finally decided to go down to the beach, that is, if I got there before I melted. It was a little cooler on the sand and when my small sister asked me to help her build a sand castle I consented.

EDNA MURPHY.

1310 East Seventh street, Long Beach, H. J. C. No. 2.

FOUND COOL AND QUIET  
IN A THICK FOREST

HONORABLE MENTION

Dear Aunt Laurie:

MADLINE was visiting her sister in Oregon and one day, as it was very warm, she said:

"Maude, I do wish it wasn't so hot." "How would you like to go to the woods tomorrow?" asked her sister.

Of course Madeline wanted to go, so early next morning Madeline and quite a few others started out for the woods. When they arrived there they found a beautiful little spring, and of course everyone wanted to drink right away. They found a clearing near the spring, where they ate their lunch.

After lunch the boys and girls ran around and picked flowers, also making crowns out of leaves. They explored the mountain and made believe they had found many valuable things. About 2 o'clock they started for home. Although it had been one of the warmest days that summer, the children had had a good time just the same.

MADLINE EVANS.

Palms, Cal. R. F. D. box 195.

PRISONER ON ISOLATED ISLES

Dear Aunt Laurie:

O-sai-san was the most beautiful young woman in all Japan. She was so beautiful that no one, not even the great masters of the pen, could describe her in words, so I shall not attempt it, but leave it all to your imagination. Her father made colors for the use of those who made the dresses of the noble ladies of the royal household, and one day he discovered how to make a wonderfully beautiful color that had no name.

O-sai-san admired it very much, and such was her father's love for her that he would not sell any of this color, but kept it for her own use, and after this she always had her gowns of this color.

One day, as she was on her way to visit the Princess Alla-san, a band of fierce-looking men dressed in a strange fashion suddenly sprang from the roadside upon her servants and overcame them. After this they carried O-sai-san off with them, and after traveling for a long time came to the seashore, where they were met by a boat.

They carried her on board and were soon sailing far away over the blue waves. At last they came to a barren looking rock, and, going into a hidden bay, they disembarked and O-sai-san was introduced to her new home.

Seen from the interior of the island it was a very beautiful place, covered with trees and flowers, and watered by a little brook, clear and cold like our own mountain streams.

In the midst of this garden spot was a large house, into which O-sai-san was ushered. Here she might have privacy and servants to do everything